

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

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will challenge
Hall's status quo**

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Aaron Eckhart



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2004

50¢

Debate continues over troop levels in Iraq

Abizaid: More troops needed for elections; question is who will provide them?

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10th Mountain: Road warriors

Fort Drum-based
unit's Iraq tour
is its fifth
deployment since
Sept. 11, 2001

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PHOTOS BY LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Sp1c. Alfredo Zendizias mans his machine gun and radios in an "all clear" Wednesday outside the police station in Saba al Boor, Iraq. Zendizias, along with Pl1c. Joe Strauch, right, are members of the 10th Mountain Division's 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, which "is one of the most deployed units in the Army," according to Lt. Col. John Spizzer.

STARS & STRIPES

COMING
SOON

Scene on Sunday

Nelly drops
sweet, salty CDs

Tim McGraw

Personality Parade

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Branch Davidians: A 1968 Chevrolet Camaro once owned by former Branch Davidian leader David Koresh is expected to fetch up to \$60,000 at auction this weekend in Texas.

The black two-door Camaro was parked at the Davidson compound near Waco during a 51-day siege by federal agents in 1993 that ended with Koresh and nearly 80 followers dying. Auctioneer Daniel Kruse said he hopes a museum or individual who appreciates the car's historical significance buys it.

R.I. nightclub fire: Lawyers for those charged in connection with a nightclub fire that killed 100 people were given on Friday boxes of evidence the state has compiled as it prepares to prosecute their clients.

The evidence exchange is part of an ongoing sharing of materials in the criminal case against nightclub owners Jeffrey and Michael Derdarian and Daniel Biechle, the former tour manager of the band that was playing at The Station the night of the blaze.

Lawyers for the Derdarians, Biechle and the state appeared in Superior Court Friday to receive the evidence, and discuss testing the state wants to perform on materials seized from the club.

Genesis space data: The first solar-wind samples recovered from the crashed Genesis space capsule have been sent to researchers in California.

Three years after it was launched, Genesis returned to Earth on Sept. 8, but it crashed into the western Utah desert when its parachutes failed to deploy.

NASA scientists at Michael Army Air Field at Dugway Proving Ground have been extracting samples from the smashed capsule, hoping to recover enough material for substantive study.

Rowland aide indicted: A one-time top aide to former Connecticut Gov. John G. Rowland and a major state construction contractor were indicted on charges they ran a criminal organization and the governor's office, trading contracts for gold coins, expensive meals and limousine trips.

Former co-chief of staff Peter N. Ellet and contractor William Tomasso were due in federal court Friday. The 15-count indictment handed down Thursday accuses them of conspiring to steer state contracts from 1997 to 2003. The racketeering and several other charges each carry up to 20 years in prison.

Tomasso is accused of giving Ellet more than \$1 million worth of gold, cash, trips, meals and vacations. In return, Ellet allegedly helped steer tens of millions of dollars in contracts to Tomasso and his companies.

Hacking murder case: The Utah man accused of killing his wife while she slept and dumping her body in the trash waived a preliminary hearing Thursday, clearing the way for his murder trial.

By giving up the hearing, Mark Hacking essentially is acknowledging that the state has enough evidence against him to proceed with a murder trial.

Those were the only three words Hacking said during the short hearing, attended by many of his family members and his wife's father.

There have been a few name negotiations, prosecutor Robert Stott said.



Hacking



Illinois Statehouse shooting: Springfield Police Sgt. Steve Swetland questions a handcuffed Derek W. Potts on Monday, about 40 minutes after the killing of a guard at the Illinois state Capitol in Springfield. Potts was stopped in the parking lot of a restaurant and was released, only to be captured and arrested 17 hours later and charged with the murder of William Wozniak at the state Capitol. Department heads said the officers did not know Potts was wanted in the Capitol shooting, and he apparently did not have the shotgun used in the killing or the silver, two-door foreign car linked to the shooter.

World

Canada-U.S. defense partnership: Canada's possible entry into the U.S. missile-defense program still hinges on talks with the United States, Defense Minister Bill Graham said Thursday.

But he offered an indication of which way Canada is leaning by defending the project and taking a swipe at suggestions it would lead to weapons in space.

"It's an important program in the context of Canada-U.S. relations," he said. "I'm continuing these negotiations with that attitude — we're partners for the defense of North America and I think we must remain partners."

The United States is developing a shield against ballistic missiles to guard against potential threats from countries like North Korea. U.S. officials want allies like Britain, Canada, Japan and Australia involved in the project.

Turkey EU membership: The speaker of Turkey's parliament on Friday called an emergency session to pass legal reforms meant to help the country's chances of starting membership talks with the European Union.

The decision for the session, set for Sunday, was made a day after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan pledged in Brussels, Belgium, that parliament would pass the key reform package. The proposals were withdrawn last week after lawmakers in his party insisted on including a law criminalizing adultery.

North Korea missiles: North Korea's move to boost troop numbers around missile sites is probably a military exercise rather than preparation for a launch, a top Japanese official said Friday.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda also said Japan-North Korea talks scheduled for Saturday in Beijing would go ahead as planned.

"There are many things needed to launch a missile, but so far we judge that the situation there now is not of that sort," Hosoda told reporters. "We think this was something more like an exercise."

Japan convened an emergency meeting on Thursday after saying it had information

suggesting North Korea might be preparing to test fire a short-range missile.

Mideast conflict: Palestinian militants fired two mortars at a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip on Friday, killing a 24-year Israeli-American woman and enflaming settler anger at Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

The death in the southern Gaza settlement of Neve Dekalim was likely to further mobilize opposition to Sharon's plan to withdraw from Gaza in 2005.

The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility. In response to the mortar fire, Israeli tanks opened fire on the nearby Palestinian town of Khan Younis, the army said. Palestinian witnesses said two Palestinians, a 42-year-old man and a 4-year-old boy, were wounded.

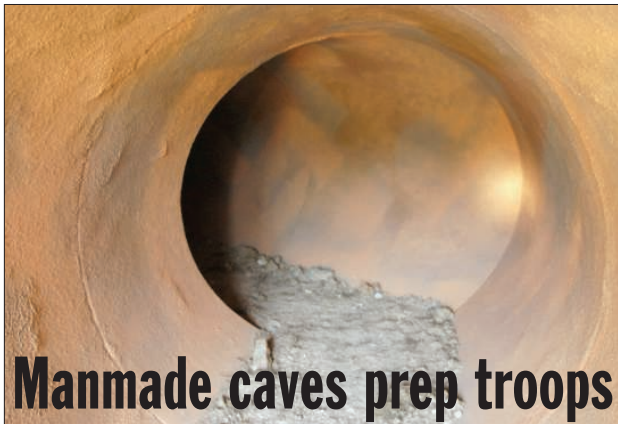
Catholic church exodus: Austrians disgusted by the discovery of a large cache of child pornography at a seminary and allegations that a prominent priest molested youths are leaving the Roman Catholic church in significant numbers, church leaders said Friday.

Applications to withdraw from parishes in the Archdiocese of Vienna were up 36 percent in July and shot up another 40 percent in August, the daily Die Presse reported, citing figures from Vienna City Hall. The Vienna archdiocese said 10,709 people had left as of Aug. 31. Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, Austria's top churchman, said he couldn't blame people for wanting out after a summer of scandal triggered by the discovery of up to 40,000 lurid images — including child pornography — on computers at a seminary in the diocese of St. Pölten.

Russian school siege: Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov reportedly denied his involvement in the Russian school hostage-taking in a statement released Friday and said another rebel chief, Shamil Basayev, should stand trial for staging it.

In a statement posted on a rebel Web site, Maskhadov, who was elected president of Chechnya in 1997 after it won de-facto independence in the first 1994-96 war, said he couldn't immediately bring Basayev to justice because of war but pledged to do it once the hostilities end.

Stories and photos from wire services



PHOTOS BY RICK EMERT/Stars and Stripes

Manmade caves prep troops

The opening of the Schwend cave gives the most natural light. The cave is one of four manmade caves at the Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels, Germany. The caves are up to 1,000 feet long and offer many twists and turns for soldiers to practice their skills.

Special setup at Hohenfels helps soldiers train for deployments to mountainous regions

BY RICK EMERT

Stars and Stripes

HOHENFELS, Germany — Nature takes thousands, even millions, of years to form caves. At the Army's Combat Maneuver Training Center in Hohenfels recently, it took just four months.

The center's staff constructed four caves up to 100 feet long. Planning began in June, and construction on all four caves was complete by Sept. 15.

The center continuously works to improve its training facilities. That includes its urban warfare training villages, where soldier and civilian role-players from the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment at Hohenfels buy furniture and other items at garage sales and flea markets to add to the authenticity, said Lt. Col. Darin Blancett, support operations officer for CMTIC Command Group.

While the urban training sites replicate villages in theaters such as Afghanistan, operating in an urban environment isn't the only concern.

"USAREUR has been deployed to locations like [Afghanistan], and [U.S. Army Europe commander] Gen. [B.B.] Bell directed that we replicate these environments — not specifically for Operation Enduring Freedom, but for any location where soldiers may need cave-clearing skills," Blancett said.

Although the center based its caves somewhat on the model of manmade caves at the National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., the caves in Hohenfels are much more elaborate. The design had to be tweaked to match the terrain and climate of Hohenfels.

At a cost of \$541,000, the caves were made with pieces of 5-inch-thick concrete sewage pipe that range in diameter from about 5 feet to 6 feet, accord-



The Combat Maneuver Training Center's Schwend cave sits in a former rock quarry in the massive training area in Hohenfels. Metal gates on the entrance keep wildlife out of the caves. To the left of the entrance in the background is one of many escape hatches for soldiers to leave the caves in case of an emergency.

ing to Knut Ogaard, master planner for the center who came up with the original design of the caves.

The insides of the caves were painted in earth tones with a stucco effect that creates a texture similar to natural cave walls, Blancett said.

Numerous escape hatches with manhole covers were built into the caves to provide easy exit access for soldiers in case of an emergency, Ogaard said.

The caves twist and turn with several openings inside the caves that lead to dead ends. "We put in dividers, because natural caves are not a straight shot; you have to maneuver around in them," Ogaard said. "The dividers help with the training because someone could be hiding behind one of them."

Opposing forces will likely be hiding in the caves and stockpiling weapons that units must find as part of the cave-clearing training, Blancett said.

A company from the 173rd Airborne used the caves for training on Monday, said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Volk, an observer-controller from the training area.

"They can use any means available to provide light in the cave," Volk said. "Some will use flashlights, others use [night-vision goggles]. They may want to limit the number of flashlights they use in case an enemy is waiting for them inside the cave."

Volk added that observing the trainees in the cave is no more difficult than observing their training in the buildings and on the streets of the mock villages.

"One observer will already be in the cave, and another follows the soldiers in to observe how they enter the cave," Volk said.

For units such as the 173rd Airborne Brigade, which deploys to Afghanistan next spring, the manmade caves in the training area could save lives.

"It is better that they practice clearing a cave here under these conditions than encounter it for the first time downrange," Blancett said.

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Rumsfeld: Time line for BRAC must stay in place

BY SANDRA JONTZ

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The two Pentagon plans of repositioning overseas troops to U.S. bases and the next round of likely base closures go hand-in-hand and must stay on the current time line in order for either to work, Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Thursday during a congressional hearing.

When asked by Sen. John Warner, R-Va., chairman of the Armed Services Committee, whether he'd support a delay, Rumsfeld said: "It would be most unfortunate for any delay in BRAC, which would delay forces being returned to the United States," Rumsfeld said of the Base Realignment and Closure process.

Warner concurred, saying during his opening remarks that it is "imperative that we stay on that same timetable."

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry had said he would delay the base closure process if elected.

"We've called for it to stop the BRAC [Base Realignment And Closure] process temporarily. I wanna make certain that we are re-evaluating precisely what America's military needs are in this new structure," Kerry told Stripes on Aug. 6.

Last month, President Bush announced a broad plan to shift, over the next 10 years, some 70,000 troops and 100,000 family members and civilian employees from overseas to stateside installations. With that repositioning, the military intends to shut down 200, or some 35 percent, of its overseas installations and facilities, from major bases to a plot of land with a radio antenna on it, Rumsfeld said.

The senators were given detailed plans of the Pentagon's three-year plan, listing several options of troop movements, plans that contained exact numbers of troops to be retained and where Pentagon officials would like to place them. The plans are classified.

Returning troops will need a place to go, Rumsfeld said, stressing the importance of keeping the BRAC process on schedule so that it does not delay the posturing plans.

Instead of maintaining Cold War-era bases in Western European countries, the military wants to shift to "warm bases," for example, in cooperative Middle East countries — erecting bare-bones facilities to where troops can deploy to fight contingencies and then leave when no longer needed, he said. More rudimentary facilities can be built in African countries, which also can be used for training.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., and others expressed concerns of reducing U.S. forces in South Korea by about 12,500. "When North Korea ... seems to be in an aggressive and unpredictable situation, why would we not have those concerns?" Lieberman asked Army Gen. Leon LaPorte, commander of U.S. Forces Korea.

"Why would we not be worried that we have 12,500 fewer troops on the ground?"

That's because numbers doesn't equal capability, said LaPorte, who testified at the hearing with fellow combatant commanders Gen. James Jones from European Command, and Adm. Thomas Fargo, Pacific Command. Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also testified.

Not only has the United States boosted its capabilities to defend the peninsula through high-tech equipment, but also some tend to underestimate the effectiveness of the South Korean army, he said.

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Son Day raid a 'model of teamwork'

BY CHARLIE COON

Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — One of the heralded events in special operations history was the Son Tay raid of 1970.

A team of 56 soldiers flew by helicopter into a North Vietnamese camp where Americans were suspected of being held prisoner. The raiders killed hundreds of the enemy and got away unscathed.

And while no prisoners were saved — they'd been relocated to a different camp a few months earlier — the mission has served as a model of teamwork and preparation, a group of soldiers was told Wednesday by one of the original raiders, Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick St. Clair of the West Virginia Army National Guard.

The 1970 raid, followed by the botched attempt in 1980 to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran when eight soldiers died, also helped to spur the next president, Ronald Reagan, to re-establish a strong special operations element in the United States after special ops had been downsized following Vietnam.

"I think [Reagan] understood we'd need a full complement of everything, including the [Army] Delta Force and a special operations command," said St. Clair, of Special Operations Detachment E, Delta Operations Command Europe.

Back in 1970, he was simply Sgt. St. Clair, a young Green Beret who'd never been in combat. St. Clair was among 100 who were handpicked by the legendary Col. Arthur D. "Bull" Simons.

"I don't know what the mission was," St. Clair said. "That's all we needed to know at the time."

President Nixon had been unhappy with the way American prisoners of war were being treated, St. Clair said, adding, "We knew the average POW weight loss was 64 pounds."

The suspected prison camp at Son Tay, located 23 miles west of the North Vietnamese capital of Hanoi, was chosen for the raid because it was accessible.

St. Clair's job after his chopper crash-landed inside the compound was to take out a guard tower that overlooked a building his team was going to storm.

The team then blew a hole in the wall.

"That's how we were going to get the POWs out," St. Clair said.

After discovering there were no POWs, but not before laying waste to the enemy, including a building full of Caucasians, the raiders piled into helicopters and made their getaway as the enemy fired from below.

"You could hear the fragments of the [surface-to-air missiles] coming through the bird," St. Clair said.

The lessons learned from Son Tay, and from the failed Iran mission, established a blueprint for future special operations, St. Clair said.

Rehearsals, smart people making the plans, adequate resources to do the job, thinking outside the box, taking into account the weather and having good lines of communication between the participants.

After his 90-minute presentation, which lasted more than twice as long as the raid itself, St. Clair told questions from the audience at Fort Belvoir.

How come Simons never made general, asked one soldier.

"Probably too straightforward



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Command Sgt. Maj. Patrick St. Clair, lower right, was just a sergeant in 1970 when he and other soldiers embarked on this helicopter to conduct the Son Tay raid in North Vietnam.

and successful," St. Clair responded.

Who were the Caucasians that the raiders took out, another wanted to know. Maybe Russians or maybe the Mongolians, St. Clair responded.

"One of the biggest things in the military is keep learning from past experiences, both positive and negative," said Lt. Col. Don Randle of SOCEUR, one of the soldiers in the audience. "Don't keep reinventing the wheel."

The U.S. men's basketball team's third-place finish at this year's Olympic Games was an example of superior talent not excelling because they were not "orchestrated."

"I've been mentored by a lot of Vietnam veterans in my career," Randle said. "When you're getting ready for a mission, you better be rehearsing or eating or sleeping. This is what prepares us, knowing what the guy on our left and right is doing."

Capt. Mike Lass of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and SOCEUR said it was an honor to meet one of the original raiders.

"It's one thing to read about the action and study the after-action reviews," Lass said. "It adds a whole new aspect to hear a first-hand account."

"This brings the lesson home."

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Bazaar to be haunting Aviano soon

Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — It's a few weeks early for Halloween, but there still might be a few witches on base next weekend.

But don't worry. They're not the evil kind. The annual Bella Befana ("Good Witch") Bazaar will be Oct. 1-3.

In addition to the more than 120 vendors from at least nine countries selling their wares, this year's version will boast a few extras. Customers will be able to use credit cards for the first time, gift-wrapping services will be available and representatives from the base post office will have an area set up where gifts can be mailed to the States.

Angie Newland, chairwoman for the event, says the bazaar is traditionally popular for those trying to find gifts for Christmas. And it will have some of the same artists who attend every year and new ones.

Live entertainment is scheduled and a dozen organizations from the base will be selling a variety of ethnic foods. The event will be spread out among the large hangars along the flight line near the main gate. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Newland said money raised will be used to help with scholarships for high school and continuing education students and other projects.

Kaiserslautern High School student found dead

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A Kaiserslautern High School student was found dead in her home Thursday evening.

The student was identified as Alicia Dykes, a senior at the school, according to Daniel J. Mendoza, high school principal. Her age was unavailable.

At this point, the Army's Criminal Investigation Command does not suspect foul play, according to Maj. Mark Wright, public affairs officer for the 21st Theater Support Command.

An autopsy is being performed to determine the cause of death.

USO tips its hat to military personnel

MAINZ-KASTEL, Germany — USO Europe's annual tip of the hat to 10 outstanding junior enlisted military personnel from the United States and Germany will take place Saturday night at the Wiesbaden Kurhaus in downtown Wiesbaden.

Representing the two nations' military branches, the servicemembers are being recognized for their military and community achievements.

Senior leaders from the military, diplomatic, political and corporate world have been invited to the event, which starts at 6:30 p.m.

This is the 13th annual salute to servicemembers by the United States Organizations.

The recipients this year are:

German Army: Junior Sgt. Doris Voigt

U.S. Army: Sgt. Christopher David Holbrook

U.S. Marine Corps: Lance Cpl. James N. McIntee

German navy: Head Ship's Mate Daniel Lammert

U.S. Navy: Petty Officer 3rd Class Surface Warfare Max Allen Spriggs III

German air force: Junior Sgt. Torsten Kibke

U.S. Air Force: Senior Airman Adam J. Esposito

U.S. Coast Guard: Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael Christopher Azevedo

German Joint Medical Service: Sgt. Nico Gebauer

German Joint Support Service: Junior Sgt. Sebastian Kirchhöfer

From staff reports

Some Georgia troops to get refunds from term life insurance vendor

BY DICK PETTYS

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Many of the young soldiers at Fort Benning thought they were purchasing a term investment product after they listened to the agent's spiel, but they really were buying term life insurance at less-than-bargain rates.

Now some who bought the policies in 2002 and 2003 at the Army infantry training base in west Georgia will see refunds as a result of a state investigation into whether agents from some companies misled the young recruits.

And the probe has expanded to other Georgia military bases where similar complaints have been raised, state insurance commissioner John Oxendine said Thursday.

The official John Oxendine, said the situation reminds him of one aimed at senior citizens years ago in which some insurance agents were offering retirement investment help to older Americans while actually just selling "garbage life insurance policies."

"This is pretty much the same approach," he said, "except they're going after 19-year-old

kids."

"Marketing an insurance product as an investment is clearly inappropriate and does violate Georgia law. So that's kind of what we're looking at," he added.

Oxendine said it appears from his initial findings that some agents gained access to Fort Benning either through a vendor's pass or through friends, and then advertised financial planning, consulting or investment services while actually selling overpriced term life policies.

Some of the soldiers who bought the policies — generally through payroll deductions of \$100 a month — believed they were investing "in some kind of bank or investment program or mutual fund" that would pay dividends, not realizing they were purchasing an insurance product, Oxendine said.

"The people we talked to honestly thought they were making an investment. They thought it was like putting money in a bank," he said. "They said insurance was mentioned, but not really talked about. All they [the agents] talked about was 'investment, investment, investment.'"

Fort Benning spokesman Rick McDowell said military officials

"take what happened very seriously" and said vendors must now secure "all sorts of clearances" before being permitted on base.

The company that pushed policies at Fort Benning — American Amicable Life Insurance Co. of Waco, Texas — is offering refunds, company spokesman Mark Palmer said.

After The New York Times reported in July on the sales, American Amicable launched an internal probe and found that four insurance agents violated company and Department of Defense rules by approaching groups of soldiers in basic training, Palmer said.

Three of the agents have been fired and one resigned, he said. The company hasn't found similar instances at other bases, he said.

Palmer said \$75 of the premium that soldiers paid for the product was used to purchase an insurance policy and \$25 to an annuity rider guaranteed to give them a 4 percent return on investment but currently paying 6.5 percent.

Oxendine said he also is investigating policies sold by Trans World Assurance of San Mateo, Calif., and Madison National Life Insurance Co. of Middleton, Wis.

GAO frowns on drop in Reserve retirement age

Agency cites costs, retention, shifting skills

Advocates for lowering the age-60 threshold for when Reserve retirement benefits begin will find little to cheer about in a new report from the Government Accountability Office.

With numerous bills before Congress to drop the Reserve retirement age to 55 or younger, lawmakers in 2002 directed GAO to review Reserve retirement, assess the need for change, and weigh the costs of granting annuities earlier against the benefits of retaining more reservists.

The report, released this month, concludes that the Department of Defense doesn't collect attrition data in a way to determine whether the services are keeping enough Reserve and National

Guard members for 20 years or more. DOD also lacks data to show whether offering earlier annuities would even improve personnel retention rates.

Yet the report goes on to give five reasons for Congress to move cautiously, or perhaps not at all, to change Reserve retirement. They are:

Cost: The retirement fund expense to lower the age at which Reserve annuities start would range from a low of more than \$5 billion over 10 years to a high of more than \$34 billion.

The totals include the cost of providing, at age 55 or earlier, both annuities and health benefits.

Too few gain: Because only one of four reservists serves long enough to retire, a change in law to start annuities earlier won't benefit most Reservists who served or are now deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the other hand, it would raise the value of retirement for many reservists who might not

MILITARY UPDATE

Tom Philpott

ever deploy in the war on terrorism.

Only a third of Reserve component personnel have been activated since Sept. 11, 2001.

Better alternatives: The services have more efficient ways to raise compensation of deployed reservists.

They include hazardous duty pay, family separation allowances and a new, still unused special allowance for military personnel who endure frequent or long deployments.

Rebalancing skills: The Department of Defense is shifting skills previously concentrated in the Reserve and National Guard to active-duty forces.

This should relieve operational

stress on high-demand Reserve occupations and soften the argument for changing Reserve retirement.

Unintended effects: Changing Reserve retirement could have unintended negative consequences for keeping active-duty forces.

For example, says GAO, if Reserve retirement is changed to provide immediate annuities after 20 years of service, some personnel who planned to remain on active duty until retirement might leave and serve their remaining time in a Reserve component.

Rep. Jim Saxton, R-N.J., introduced the legislation, the most popular Reserve retirement bill now on Capitol Hill. It would lower the age threshold to 55. So far, it has 190 co-sponsors, a balance of Republicans and Democrats.

No Reserve retirement changes made it into either the House or Senate version of the 2005 defense authorization bill, now in final negotiations.

To qualify for an annuity at age 60, reservists must have at least 20 years of creditable service, which means a minimum of 50 retirement points earned each year from monthly drills, annual training or mobilization.

The more points earned, the higher the annuity.

In fiscal 1992, reservists earned an average 64 retirement points. By fiscal 2001, that average was up to 138.

Despite a higher pace of deployments, GAO said, Reserve retention rates have remained relatively stable since 1991, the first Persian Gulf War.

In a small nod to advocates for change, GAO noted that the age-60 threshold was set in 1948 when federal civilian employees had to work until 60 to qualify for retirement.

In 1967, the minimum federal civilian retirement age was lowered to 55 for employees with 30 or more years of federal service.

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 221111, Centerville, VA 20120-1111, e-mail milupdate@gaio.com or visit www.militaryupdate.com

Traditional folk parade will be highlight of Cannstatter Volksfest

BY CHARLIE COON
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — For those who can't make it to Munich for the Oktoberfest, another very large beer festival starts Saturday in Stuttgart.

The 159th Stuttgart Beer Festival, also known as the Cannstatter Volksfest, features football-size tents filled with beer-drinking people dancing on tables to live music.

There are dozens of carnival rides and piles of local Schwabian food favorites such as cheese noodles and roasted pork.

The festival runs daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. through Oct. 10. For people who live near Kaiserslautern, Heidelberg and Frankfurt, the good news is that the Volksfest in Stuttgart is about two hours closer than Munich.

"It's one of the most beautiful and biggest beer festivals in the world," said Karin Stolz, a spokeswoman for the city of Stuttgart.

"We have 333 different exhibits. There are merry-go-rounds and roller coasters. We have the largest transportable Ferris wheel in the world."

And there are also beer tents that hold up to 5,000 people each, where 1-liter mugs are served with local brews such as Schwabing Brau and Stuttgarter Hofbrau.

"In the tents, people are singing traditional songs and dancing on the tables and benches and having fun and drinking beer," Stolz said.

Outside the tents are beer gardens for a slightly more relaxed environment.

One of the festival's highlights will come Sunday when the large, traditional folk parade starts downtown and winds its way to the festival grounds, known as the Cannstatter Wiesen.

The parade will feature horse-drawn brewery floats as groups from the region dress in traditional garb.



Stars and Stripes

Stolz said that hotel rooms are available in the city, and reservations can be made by calling (+49) 0711-222-8233.

Information: www.stuttgarter-tourist.de/english/stuttgarter-festivals/beerfestival.html

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DOD restores Web site access for overseas voters

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has restored access to a Web site that assists soldiers and other Americans living overseas in voting, after receiving complaints that its security measures were preventing legitimate voters from using it.

The site, www.fvap.gov, had been closed to users of certain Internet service providers, because some hackers were using those providers to launch attacks on U.S. government sites, military officials said.

But that had the effect of restricting legitimate traffic from those providers, as well. The move prompted criticism from overseas voter advocates and a few Democratic members of Congress, who said the security interfered with the voting rights of Americans overseas. In a statement, the Pentagon

said the changes will open the Web site, run by the Foreign Voting Assistance Program, to most, but not all, users. The site assists U.S. citizens overseas in casting absentee ballots.

"It is always a challenge to balance access with the required security on Department of Defense systems," said Charles S. Abell, principal deputy undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness.

Some U.S. government agencies have previously blocked access to their Web sites from Internet providers, and even entire countries, when hacking attempts have been detected.

Brett Rierson, a Hong Kong-based Democrat who wrote to the Pentagon about the problem, said he tracked complaints from users of at least 27 providers in 25 countries who have been denied access to information from the Pentagon-run site.

Pick
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for
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10th Mountain on yet another deployment

Almost half of division's soldiers are veterans of Afghanistan, Iraq or both

BY LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD When 21-year-old Spc. Alfredo Zendizias first stepped inside the gate of the fabled 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum, N.Y., in 2001, little did he know that the division would soon become famous as one the Army's most-deployed units.

In fact, his unit in particular, Company C of the 10th Mountain Division's 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, "is one of the most deployed units in the Army," according to Lt. Col. John Spitzer, battalion commander.

After Sept. 11, 2001, elements of the 10th Mountain were deployed to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.; Uzbekistan; Afghanistan for Operation Anaconda; Djibouti in the Horn of Africa; and now Iraq — for a full year, Spitzer said Wednesday.

Zendizias said he knew, after the Sept. 11 attacks — he was in basic training at the time — that deployments would follow, no matter which unit he ended up in.

"I just didn't expect to be out this often," said the young soldier, whose favorite deployment to date has been Africa. "Maybe once."

By the time they return home after a year in Iraq, some 10th Mountain soldiers "will have been deployed for more than 26 months out of the past 45 months," said Spitzer, whose battalion is nicknamed the Polar Bears.

"We have lots of [battle-] scarred soldiers in this brigade," said 2nd Brigade Commander Team commander Col. Mark Milley, a Princeton-educated Ranger and former Special Forces infantryman.

In fact, between 40 percent and



Lisa Burgess/Stars and Stripes

Saba al Boor, the largest town in territory patrolled by Company C of the 10th Mountain Division's 4th Battalion, 31st Infantry Regiment, is known as a quiet, very rural, American-friendly town.

50 percent of the 10th Mountain soldiers who are now here at Camp Victory were either in Afghanistan, Iraq, or both, Milley said. So Zendizias, who is from Norwalk, Calif., is not alone.

The 2nd BCT is responsible for 700 square miles of the western "hinterlands" of Baghdad, Spitzer said.

The soldiers "do full spectrum operations, from constant patrolling... to helping recruit and mentor" the new Iraqi National Police force, Milley said Wednesday.

The brigade also works with local officials on civil affairs projects such as health care, irriga-

tion systems and potable water and sewage disposal, he said.

Some of the 10th Mountain's soldiers are not in Iraq by choice, such as Spc. Billy Weatherall, a 23-year-old from Bossier City, La. He was only three days from finishing his Army contract and going to college when he got the news on May 12 that he had been extended in order to be sent to Iraq for a year.

Weatherall, who said he joined the military "out of family tradition," including both grandfathers in the Air Force and a father in the Marines, had been in the Army for four years and four months and

had already done three deployments: Aberdeen, Uzbekistan and Anaconda. Now he is in Iraq, where the unit arrived in mid-July after spending a month in Kuwait. In total, he has been deployed for one year and nine months, he said.

Weatherall said he doesn't mind deployments: "... But I didn't realize I'd be deployed four times."

Like his company mate Zendizias, Weatherall liked his stint in Africa the best. "It was a fantastic deployment," he said while grabbing a taco-and-cheese dinner at the chow hall after a Wednesday patrol. "We got to see so much of the other cultures."

"The hardest part is not being able to call my family, or not getting time off to goof around with my friends."

Spc. Alfredo Zendizias
10th Mountain Division

The least favorite, for both men, was Operation Anaconda, in Afghanistan.

"Just the terrain was so rough," never mind the fighting, Zendizias said while chewing a corn dog and some fried chicken.

Iraq isn't too bad, both men said.

"The hardest part is not being able to call my family, or not getting time off to goof around with my friends," Zendizias said.

In his precious spare time, Weatherall said, he "lifts weights and goes to church."

"I think [God] is looking over our shoulders because he knows what we are doing is right," the devout Baptist said.

Weatherall said he still intends to go to college when his extension finally ends.

But he doesn't want to cut his Army ties — he wants to join his local National Guard unit.

"I want to be with my buddies," he said.

Zendizias said he intends to stay in the Army. His dream assignment is Fort Lewis, Wash., working with the new Stryker Brigade.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at: burgessl@stripes.com

General: Guard will fall short of recruiting goal

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army National Guard will fall 5,000 soldiers short of its recruiting goal this year, in part because fewer in the active-duty force are switching to part-time service, knowing how frequently Guard units are being dispatched to war zones, the Guard's top general said Thursday.

It will be the first time since 1994 that the Guard has missed its sign-up goal.

Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said in an Associated Press interview that he's concerned by the shortfall but believes it will not be a long-term trend.

"This is something that can't be ignored. I've got to watch it every day," he said. "But it's not something that I would say indicates that we're breaking. I think it indicates that the recruiting climate

has gotten tougher, and that means we need to adjust to a tougher market."

The Guard had set a goal of 56,000 recruits for the budget year ending Sept. 30 but is likely to end up with about 51,000, he said.

Blum cited two main reasons why the Guard is attracting fewer soldiers from the active-duty force — a pool of recruits that in some states accounts for half of the new Guard members in a given year.

One reason is the active-duty Army is prohibiting soldiers already in units in Iraq or Afghanistan — or preparing to deploy there — from leaving the service, even if their enlistment term is up. The other reason, Blum said, is that active-duty soldiers know a growing number of Guard units are being sent to Iraq and Afghanistan, so they figure there is little to be gained in terms of reduced personal risk, by switching from active duty to the Guard.

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Officials: More troops will be needed in Iraq

Rumsfeld quashes rumors of draft to boost numbers

BY THOMAS E. RICKS
AND JOSH WHITE

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — U.S. and foreign officials say it is increasingly clear that more armed forces will be needed in Iraq in the coming months to secure the nation's first democratic elections, to protect against the possibility of an insurgent offensive during Ramadan and to allow U.S. commanders to launch a major counteroffensive to quell the rebellion in the Sunni Triangle.

The question of who will provide those troops, however, is still unanswered. Army Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. troops in the Middle East, told reporters on Capitol Hill on Wednesday that more forces would be needed, saying he prefers the bulk of the new forces come from the newly trained Iraqi security forces and from other nations instead of from a significant increase in U.S. troops.

"I think we will need more troops than we currently have to secure the elections process in Iraq that will probably take place in the end of January," Abizaid said after a closed-door briefing with legislators about the current state of operations Iraq and Afghanistan. But, he added, "it is our belief that those troops will be Iraqi troops." Also, he said, there may be more international troops.

So, Abizaid concluded, "I don't foresee a need for more American troops, but we can't discount it." There currently are 135,000 U.S. servicemen in Iraq.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld testified Thursday before the Senate Armed Services Committee that he expects Iraq to become a more violent place as elections approach, and said Abizaid will be getting more troops.

Rumsfeld, however, also expects the forces to come largely in the form of new Iraqi security recruits. But he said that more U.S. troops could be sent if combatant commanders request them.

"In the event Gen. Abizaid decides he needs more troops to assist in the elections, like he has, for example, in Afghanistan, he'll ask, and he'll get it," Rumsfeld said.

However, Rumsfeld was contradicted by Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

"We're going to have an election that is free and open and that has to be open to all citizens. It's got to be our best effort to get it into troubled areas as well," Armitage told a House committee Friday when asked about Rumsfeld's statement.

Pentagon staff officers are working hard to develop contingency plans for increasing the U.S. force in Iraq if a decision is made to do that, said an Army officer at the Pentagon.

"They're coming up with courses of actions and options to meet the requirement," this officer said. No formal request has yet arrived from Abizaid, he said, but "prudent military planning" is under way.

The Army officer said he

thought it was likely that Marines in western Iraq on a seven-month tour would be extended. A Marine spokesperson said she hadn't received any indication that such an extension would occur.

Rumsfeld again publicly knocked down persistent rumors that the Bush administration is considering a reinstatement of the draft to boost the military's numbers.

"I'm not supposed to get in politics, but it is absolutely false that anyone in this administration is considering reinstating the draft," Rumsfeld said, his voice rising. "That is nonsense."

But a Pentagon-appointed panel of outside experts has concluded in a new study that the military does not have enough forces to sustain current and anticipated stability operations, the New York Times reported Friday.

Portions of the study, not yet released, were read into the public record Thursday by Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed, a leader of Democrats who want to expand the size of the military. During testimony by Rumsfeld and his top commanders, Reed said he found the study "provocative and startling."

Rumsfeld called it an "excellent piece of work" and that he had ordered briefings on its findings for senior military and civilian officials, but cautioned that the section read by Reed was not a comprehensive synopsis, the Times reported.

Reed said the Defense Science Board study found "inadequate total numbers of U.S. troops" and "a lack of long-term endurance."



Two U.S. soldiers and an Iraqi soldier investigate near the Italian Embassy in Baghdad after mortars exploded on Friday. Three Iraqis were slightly wounded.

Mortars explode near embassy

BY SAMEER N. YACUB
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Gunmen abducted six Egyptians working for Iraq's mobile phone company, seizing two in a bold raid on the firm's Baghdad office and the others outside the capital, officials said Friday, the latest in a string of kidnappings that have underscored the country's fragile security.

Also Friday, mortars exploded near the Italian Embassy in Baghdad, slightly wounding three Iraqis, the Foreign Ministry in Rome said. The mortars were fired shortly after 6 a.m. when the embassy offices were closed, the Foreign Ministry said.

Hours later, a rocket hit the busy Baghdad thoroughfare Palestine Street. Blood stains could be seen on the street afterward, footage from Associated Press Television news showed.

Police Capt. Thaeir Matarsh confirmed there were casualties, but he could not say how many.

U.S. Marines fired artillery rounds at militants in the Sunni insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, the military said. The rounds were fired after the Marines observed a number of insurgents getting out of a vehicle with a mounted machine gun, said Lt. Lyle Gilbert, a Marine spokesman. U.S. warplanes have repeatedly targeted the network of Jordanian-born militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, in recent weeks with attacks in and around Fallujah.

The kidnappings of the Egyptians came amid the hostage drama surrounding Briton Kenneth Bigley, who was shown in a videotape Wednesday begging for authorities to meet his kidnappers' demands and save his life.

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U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Thursday, Sept. 23, 2004, 163 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the war in Iraq, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 789 died as a result of hostile action and 250 died of non-hostile causes. The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 65 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, six; Ukraine, eight; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; the Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 901 U.S. military members have died — 680 as a result of hostile action and 221 of non-hostile causes, according to the military.

The latest deaths reported by U.S. Central Command:

■ A Marine was killed Wednesday in Iraq's Anbar province.

The latest identifications reported by the Department of Defense and the North Dakota National Guard:

■ Army Sgt. Brandon E. Adams, 22, Hollidaysburg, Pa., died Sunday at Walter Reed Army

Medical Center in Washington, D.C., of injuries sustained Feb. 16 when a grenade exploded as he was clearing a house in Fallujah, Iraq, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y.

■ Marine Sgt. Foster L. Harrington, 31, Fort Worth, Texas, killed Monday in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to the Marine Corps Reserve 3rd Force Reconnaissance Company, 4th Marine Division, Mobile, Ala.

■ Army Pfc. Adam J. Harris, 21, Abilene, Texas, killed Wednesday when he was shot by a sniper, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Lance J. Koenig, 33, Fargo, N.D., killed Wednesday near Tikrit, Iraq, when the explosive he was investigating went off, assigned to Company B of the North Dakota Guard's 141st Engineer Combat Battalion.

■ Marine Sgt. Benjamin K. Smith, 24, Carterville, Ill., killed Wednesday in Iraq's Anbar province, assigned to 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat, Twenty-nine Palms, Calif.

■ Army Pfc. Nathan E. Stahl, 20, Highland, Ind., killed Tuesday by an explosive in Iraq, assigned to 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.

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IN THE STATES

Ivan strikes Gulf as Fla. braces for Jeanne

BY MARK BABINECK
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Ivan's second foray into the United States came with little wind but plenty of the rain, while Floridians braced for another possible pounding as Hurricane Jeanne appeared to be gearing up for a weekend landing.

After looping into the Atlantic and back into the Gulf of Mexico after its initial strike on the Alabama-Florida coast as a hurricane last week, Tropical Storm Ivan washed ashore near the Texas-Louisiana line Thursday night, bringing heavy rain to both sides of the border.

While the storm was expected to dissipate as it drifts into Texas

this weekend, its rains are expected to persist and cause problems, and flood-prone Houston is in its projected path.

"Friday night through Saturday morning, if you run a line through Galveston, Houston and College Station, that area probably is really going to get pounded," said National Weather Service meteorologist Kent Prochazka.

Jefferson County received between 3 and 3.5 inches of rain over four hours, but no flooding problems were immediately reported.

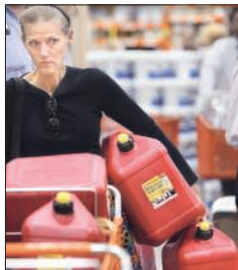
Louisiana was also spared any major problems.

"It's just kind of like a cold front," Cameron Parish Emergen-

cy Preparedness Director Freddie Richard Jr. said late Thursday. "We're just getting some rain and a little bit of wind."

Florida residents also had that oh-no-not-again feeling — as 105-mph Hurricane Jeanne appeared to be zeroing in this weekend for what would be the state's fourth thrashing this season.

Jeanne already has been blamed for 1,070 flooding deaths in Haiti. At 8 a.m. EDT, Jeanne was about 315 miles east of Great Abaco Island in the northwestern Bahamas. It was expected to reach Florida by Sunday, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Some projections showed the storm hitting central Florida and then moving up the coast to North Carolina by Tuesday.



Diane Kelly of West Palm Beach, Fla., stands in line Thursday, at a Home Depot in West Palm Beach to purchase 5-gallon gasoline containers. She was stocking up on items in case Hurricane Jeanne hits. Also Thursday, remnants of Ivan made landfall along the Gulf Coast.

AP

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Bush solidifies support among male voters

Experts say it will be close race

BY WILL LESTER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush solidified his advantage among men during the last month and holds his highest ratings since January on job performance, the economy and Iraq, according to an Associated Press poll.

Bush has a 7-point lead over his Democratic challenger, Senator John Kerry — 52 percent to 45 percent among likely voters — in the AP-Ipsos survey less than six weeks before the Nov. 2 presidential election. Independent candidate Ralph Nader was backed by 1 percent.

The president held the advantage despite increasing violence in Iraq and a week of attacks on his Iraq policy by an increasingly combative Kerry.

"We took a lead after our convention and the lead has held," said Matthew Dowd, a senior Bush campaign strategist. Bush has a slight lead in some polls, and is running even in others.

Since the Republican convention, Bush's job approval is up, 54 percent among likely voters, and just over half of them approve of

On the issues



How will Americans know when the war on terrorism is won?

President Bush



"It is unlike any conventional war we have fought in the past. It will not end with a peace treaty or

Sen. John Kerry



"The global war on terrorism will be finally won when terrorists no longer have global reach and terrorist organizations are unable to inflict

by the capture of a city or the fall of a single regime. It will be won through the steady advance of freedom, hope, and opportunity."

catastrophic attacks. That will happen when we cut off their financing, their sanctuaries, their recruiting capabilities and their access to weapons of mass destruction."

AP

his handling of the economy and Iraq. His approval in all three areas is as high as it's been all year in the polling conducted for the AP by Ipsos-Public Affairs.

Dowd wasn't assuming a Bush advantage would hold up through the election, however.

"The way we're approaching this, it will be a very close election," he said, adding that turning out Republican voters will be crucial.

The Kerry campaign focused its message in recent days on growing problems in Iraq as Bush has talked about making steady progress there.

"If you look at all the recent polls, this race is headed back to even," said Mark Mellman, a

Kerry campaign pollster. He said Kerry still has time to "make the case" with voters.

In the 2000 presidential election, three in 10 voters said they made up their minds in the last month, including one in 10 who did so in the final three days, according to exit polls. The undecided group is believed to be smaller this year.

Bush holds a 17-point lead among men. And Bush and Kerry are tied among women, a traditionally Democratic group that now favors Bush on protecting the country.

The poll of 931 likely voters was taken Sept. 20-22 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, larger for subgroups.

Kerry: Bush's pursuit of Saddam allowed bin Laden to stay free

BY MARY DALRYMPLE
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry faulted President Bush on Friday for pursuing Saddam Hussein instead of Sept. 11 mastermind Osama bin Laden, a part of a Bush strategy he contended had made debating terrorism more difficult.

"The invasion of Iraq was a profound diversion from the battle against our greatest enemy, al-Qaida," Kerry said in a speech at Temple University. "There's no question about it. The president's misjudgment, miscalculation and mismanagement of the war in Iraq all make the war on terrorism harder to win."

Kerry, in offering a detailed strategy to contain terrorism and to draw a sharp distinction between his and the president's views on national security, added, "Iraq is now what it was not before the war, a haven for terrorists."

While campaigning Friday in Lafayette, Louisiana, Vice President Dick Cheney told supporters, "John Kerry is trying to tear down and trash all the good that has been accomplished."

A day earlier, Kerry told The Columbus Dispatch that the president's actions in Iraq and elsewhere show Bush masquerading as a mainstream conservative

while pursuing extremist policies.

"I don't view these people as conservatives," Kerry said. "I actually view them as extreme, and I think their policies have been extreme, and that extends all the way to Iraq, where this president, in my judgment, diverted the real war on terror — which was Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida — and almost obsessively moved to deal with Iraq in a way that weakened our nation, overextended our armed forces, cost us \$200 billion and created a breach in our oldest alliances."

Kerry also mentioned a blurring line between the separation of church and state and the growth of federal budget deficits.

To discourage the spread of terrorism, Kerry proposed policies aimed at denying individuals and groups the ability to organize and attack. Kerry said he would build a better military and intelligence apparatus to go after enemies, deny terrorists weapons and financing, move against worldwide terrorist havens and recruitment centers, and promote freedom and democracy in Muslim nations.



Kerry

Middle-class tax cuts pass Congress by wide margins

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With lopsided margins in both houses, Congress gave President Bush his fourth tax cut in four years, extending three popular middle-class tax breaks and extending some expired business tax incentives just six weeks before the election.

Many Democrats complained during the debate Thursday that majority Republicans on the control Congress should have offset the lost revenue to keep the nation's soaring deficits from getting worse.

But in the end large numbers of Democrats, including presidential nominee John Kerry, supported the package, something that Republican tax-cut proponents had counted on occurring with the election only 40 days away.

The \$145.9 billion approved in the House by a 339-65 vote, with 125 Democrats joining 213 Republicans and one independent in voting for the proposal. In the Senate, the measure passed by a 92-3 vote.

While no House Republicans voted against the tax cuts, the two senators objecting included two Republicans, Sens. Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island and Olympia Snowe of Maine, who joined

Sen. Ernest Hollings, a Democrat, in voting "no." All three have been critical of the government's inability to get soaring deficits under control.

"I for one am very reluctant to saddle future generations with the bill for this fiscally ruinous policy," Chafee said in a statement.

Bush, whose campaign was hoping for a high-profile victory on taxes in the closing weeks of the presidential race, praised the congressional votes and said his tax relief was "putting more money into the hands of the American people and helping to grow our economy."

Kerry, the junior Democratic senator from Massachusetts, and his running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, were on the campaign trail and did not vote on the package. But Kerry said in a statement his supported it.

"Millions of American families are being squeezed by the weak Bush economy, falling incomes and rising health costs," Kerry said, adding that as president he would roll back Bush's tax cuts for the wealthiest families and use the savings to invest in health care and education.

The tax package Congress passed will affect an estimated 94 million Americans, mainly

through its provision to extend a broader 10 percent tax bracket, which helps reduce taxes for virtually all taxpayers. The package also keeps the per child tax credit at \$1,000 relief from the so-called marriage penalty.

The package extends the child credit for five years, the marriage penalty relief for four years and the expanded 10 percent tax bracket for six years. All were to have expired Jan. 1.

When added to the tax relief Bush persuaded Congress to pass in 2001, all of the provisions will have the effect of keeping the popular provisions on the books through the rest of the decade.

After 2010 all of the tax cuts are due to expire.

Bush, in the statement released by the White House, said Thursday's congressional action "brings us one step closer to making the tax relief permanent."

Opponents, however, zeroed in on these proposals as an example of corporate welfare.

With passage of the individual tax measure, Congress has only one major piece of tax legislation pending — a corporate tax bill that would repeal about \$5 billion in tax breaks U.S. exporters receive and replace them with a variety of other corporate tax relief.

Passage of this measure is needed to end penalty tariffs that are

being imposed on 1,600 U.S. exports to Europe as long as Congress fails to repeal the current export tax breaks, which the World Trade Organization has ruled represent violate global trade rules. However, there are big differences between the versions of the bill passed by the

House and Senate.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley on Thursday called on the White House to honor its commitment to get actively involved in lobbying Congress to pass the corporate tax measure now that the individual tax package has been approved.

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IN THE WORLD

Russia calls for additional terror watch list

BY KIM GAMEL
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Russia took its case for expanding the global war against terrorism to the United Nations, demanding the Security Council draw up a new list of terror suspects who would be subject to extradition.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, whose country has denounced Western countries for granting asylum to Chechen leaders it has linked to violence, said there can be no double standards in defining terrorists.

"Those who slaughtered children in Beslan and hijacked airplanes to attack America are creatures of the same breed," he said in a forceful speech to the U.N. General Assembly.

"Harboring terrorists, their henchmen and sponsors undermines the unity and mutual trust of parties to the anti-terrorist front, serves as a justification for their actions and actually encourages them to commit similar crimes in other countries," he added.

Russia circulated a draft resolution stressing the need for the 15

member nations to "cooperate fully" in tracking down the perpetrators and organizers of terrorist attacks.

The proposed text also asks the committee monitoring what governments are doing to fight terrorism to consider how to draw up a new list of "individuals, groups and entities involved in or associated with terrorist activities."

The list, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, would be separate from that drawn up after the Sept. 11 attacks, which targets terror suspects linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network or Afghanistan's now deposed Taliban regime.

All 191 U.N. member states are required to impose a travel ban and arms embargo on suspects on that list and freeze their assets.

Russia now wants similar punishments for those on the new list as well as speedy extraditions.

The United States was reviewing the proposal, said Secretary of State Colin Powell, who met with Lavrov for about 30 minutes on Thursday.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw supported the initiative



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, left, and Secretary of State Colin Powell speak during a meeting Thursday at the United Nations. Lavrov asked the U.N. Security Council to draw up a new list of terror suspects to be subject to travel bans and extradition.

and said Britain would "work closely" with Russia on the wording to prevent terrorists from abusing asylum status.

"We cannot let terrorists exploit a protection designed for the persecuted, not the persecutors," he said.

But the draft was short on specifics and Straw stressed that neither Britain nor any other European

Union nation would return suspects to face the death penalty.

Council diplomats said the resolution was likely to be formally introduced on Friday.

Lavrov didn't single out any countries in his speech, but Russia was particularly upset by Britain's granting of refugee status to Akhmed Zakayev, an envoy for Chechen rebel leader Aslan

Maskhadov, and U.S. asylum for Ilyas Akhmadov, whom Maskhadov named as his foreign minister while he was Chechnya's president in 1999.

The introduction of the terror resolution comes about three weeks after militants staged a series of attacks in Russia, including the hostage crisis at a school in Beslan that killed more than 330.

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IAEA calls for N. Korea to halt nuclear program

The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — A 137-nation meeting of the atomic watchdog agency demanded on Friday that North Korea scrap nuclear weapons ambitions and urged it to allow inspectors to supervise its return to peaceful activities.

The conference has no authority to enforce its resolutions, and North Korea severed its ties with the agency in 2002. Still, the document reflected international concern over North Korea's threats to build nuclear weapons and attempts to use that as a bargaining

chip at six-party talks designed to wrest concessions from the United States and others.

IAEA Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei told the agency's board last week that the nuclear standoff with North Korea posed a "serious challenge" to the global effort to control the spread of atomic weaponry.

ElBaradei said that, with his agency shut out of North Korea since December 2002, it cannot say whether the country has diverted sensitive nuclear material to other nations or groups looking to build a bomb.

Panic erupts in ravaged Haiti

The Associated Press

GONAVES, Haiti — Survivors who were left with almost nothing after Tropical Storm Jeanne devastated this town buried unclaimed corpses in mud-clogged backyards and attacked aid trucks and even neighbors bringing them food.

"You don't want to make me use this!" one man screamed as he waved a wrench at people carrying cauldrons of food to distribute at a church. The volunteers had come from the port of St. Marc to Gonaves, where flooding from the storm killed at least 1,100 people.

Hungry and thirsty survivors — some of whom have lost entire

families and everything they own — were losing patience at the slow pace of relief.

Knee-deep mud sucked up animal carcasses and sharp pieces of torn-off zinc roofs, as well as human excrement after the sanitation system was destroyed. Limes have become a hot item in the devastated city of 250,000 because people hold them to their noses to relieve the stench.

The U.N. stabilization mission in Haiti put the number of missing at 1,251. Toussaint Kongo-Doudou, a spokesman for the mission, said 1,113 bodies had been recovered and nearly 300,000 were homeless in Haiti's northwest province — with the vast majority of victims in Gonaves.

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Outgoing leader of NATO bids farewell to Kosovo

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro — The outgoing commander of NATO forces in southern Europe on Friday paid a farewell visit to Kosovo's leaders and urged citizens to work together with authorities and peacekeepers to improve security in the tense EU-run province.

Adm. Gregory Johnson, who served at NATO's command in Naples, Italy, said that "great progress" was made in Kosovo, where 18,000 alliance troops are deployed on a peacekeeping mission, known as KFOR.

Earlier this month, Kosovo's peacekeeping force announced its current troop level would be increased by 2,000 troops from Germany, Italy and France to boost security ahead of next month's general election in the province.

Campaigning for the Oct. 23

vote has begun amid threats that Serbs will boycott the ballot, citing lack of security.

Johnson said security in the province, where the majority ethnic Albanians and minority Serbs remain bitterly divided, could not be left only to the peacekeepers.

"It is everybody working together," Johnson said. That way, he added, "we will provide the correct umbrella of security" to create a climate of confidence "where everybody can walk out of the door and walk down the village to the polling booth and feel that they don't have to suffer any kind of retribution ... and I think we're getting there."

The October ballot will be Kosovo's second general election since it came under U.N. control in 1999. It represents a major challenge to international officials trying to reconcile Kosovo's bitterly

divided communities and establish a multiethnic society.

Those efforts were dealt a severe blow earlier this year when mobs of ethnic Albanians targeted Serbs and their property after reports that Serbs drowned three ethnic Albanian children in a river, a claim that was never documented.

The United Nations and NATO, which have controlled Kosovo since the war ended in mid-1999, were harshly criticized by think tanks and human rights groups for lacking coordination and failing to offer protection to Serbs during the mid-March riots.

Officials say they have since taken steps to prevent a resurgence of unrest, such as removing some of the national restrictions, stepping up cooperation with police, training the peacekeepers in crowd control tactics and bringing in more armored vehicles and other equipment.

Balkan nations agree to joint defense system

The Associated Press

SOFIA, Bulgaria — Senior defense officials of three Balkan countries pledged Friday to set up a joint air defense system in efforts to boost military cooperation in the formerly conflict-ridden region.

At a meeting in Sofia, the defense ministers and the chiefs-of-staff of Bulgaria, Albania and Macedonia decided to start on the air defense project, Albanian Defense Minister Pandel Majko said.

"This is going to be a lengthy process, and no deadline for its completion exists, as tough expert work lies ahead," said Bulgaria's army chief-of-staff, Gen. Nikola Kolev.

No further details of the project were released.

Bulgaria joined NATO in April along with six other Eastern European countries. Albania and Macedonia have joined

NATO's Partnership for Peace program and are aspiring to full membership in the alliance.

In Sofia, the three countries' officials also discussed army reforms and ways to boost regional military cooperation aimed at "achieving the irreversibility of the stabilization process in southeastern Europe," the ministers said in a joint statement.

Bulgaria expressed its support for Albania and Macedonia's drives to join NATO, and pledged to share its experience in qualifying for membership.

Bulgarian Defense Minister Nikolai Svinarov also said the three countries would welcome the widening of their regional forum with other countries, such as NATO members Turkey, Greece, Italy and Romania, or NATO candidate Croatia.

The next meeting of the defense ministers of Albania, Bulgaria and Macedonia is scheduled to be held in Ohrid, Macedonia, in April 2005.

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Banning prostitutes unwise

When I read the article about the proposed ban on soldiers contracting prostitutes ("DOD: Soliciting prostitute sold career," Sept. 23), I almost fell off my chair. Who could think of such a thing with a straight face.

I realize that the greatest slips in history were prostitutes. But when you take a soldier at the peak of his sexual life, and take him to another country where he cannot take his wife or is single and one of the country's only products and income is prostitution, you, sir, are asking for trouble with such a law.

We talk about China and its slave camps. Yet we buy from there like it was going out of style.

And if anyone thinks banning GIs from having sex (because prostitution is their only means of having sex) will help stop human trafficking in these countries, he should wake up. It is a dirtier business than drugs, but it is here to stay as long as those countries live with the attitudes and laws that are now in effect.

Sex is a natural function as well as the second strongest need of man. Americans are usually afraid to discuss the subject and are embarrassed when it comes up.

Instead of banning use of prostitution, the government should offer it and control it. Then the trafficking would have no effect on the military there and it would be self-defeating. Some forget that prostitution is also legal in several parts of the USA.

Wherever there are men and women, there will be prostitution. And the trafficking part of it will live on with or without the United States there to try and control it.

John R. Mize

Langenzenn, Germany

Broadcast was offensive

I am writing to express my and my wife's shock at a bit of "humor" we heard

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while watching in Garmisch, Germany, on AFN-Europe radio.

The Bavarian affiliate was playing pre-recorded programming produced by Clear Channel, I believe. In between songs, they played little humorous blurbs.

The offending blurb was not funny and can only be defined as being in appalling-poor taste and utterly offensive. The female announcer stated, "When I want to torture my prisoners, I make them listen to what I want to hear."

Anyone reading this who does not understand our outrage has either been living under a rock since at least March or is part of the overall problem in our society that would make American radio producers and executives think that this could possibly be considered humorous or appropriate.

Offered as background to illustrate our perspective: I am a retired U.S. Army veteran currently working on an information security professional in Iraq and my wife is a six-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force.

Gregory Strasser

Iraq

Vets' 'valuable insight'

I agree with the column "Help combat vets express their emotions" (Sept. 8), when the writer explains that returning veterans from combat theaters can be "all at sea" and depressed, and a newly found inner turmoil has encroached upon their lives. The writer said that the duty of citizens is to listen to them.

There is a valuable insight that these returning veterans can share with the world, and therefore make it a better place. This emotional turmoil they are suffering is the realization that life is fleeting, and everything they thought was of importance before gets washed aside as they try to come to terms with the horrors they have witnessed.

Suddenly, it's not important to own a fancy sports car, whether your team wins the World Series or Super Bowl, celebrities don't inspire the awe they once did, even trivial problems of loved ones aren't important anymore.

And this is where the returning veteran is valuable. He or she can see the true meaning of life, and he or she has a purpose.

Veterans know that what is important is saving lives and combating evil. And, in turn, they can use their skills as knowledgeable humanitarians to fight evil and save lives on their own doorstep.

No wonder returning veterans feel isolated when returning to the "normality" of life at home. The because what they are seeing is not really normal, it's not true life. True life is helping others through hardships that are life-threatening, not petty.

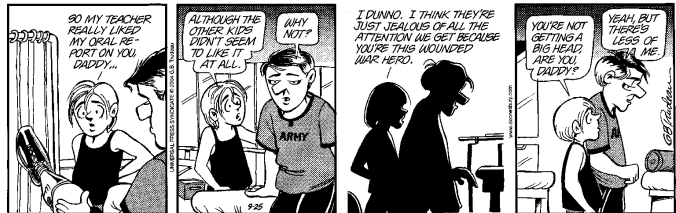
I hope that all veterans who have experienced the horrors of war realize that they are special people who gave their all, and that they are important enough to continue helping others and, in a subtle way, show their fellow human beings the true meaning of life.

Paul DesJardins

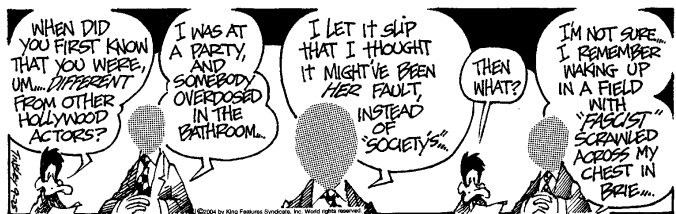
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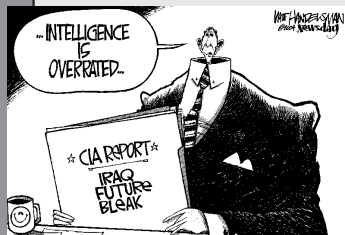


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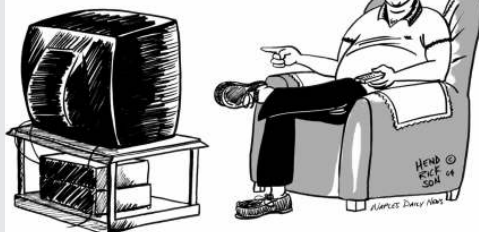
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YOUR MONEY

AOL offers expanded password security

BY ANNE JESDANUN

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Passwords alone won't be enough to get onto America Online under a new, optional log-on service that makes AOL the first major U.S. online business to offer customers a second layer of security.

The so-called two-factor authentication scheme will cost \$1.95 a month in addition to a one-time \$9.95 fee. It is initially targeted at small businesses, victims of identity theft and individuals who pay a lot of bills and conduct other financial transactions through their AOL accounts.

Subscribers get a matchbook-size device from Bedford, Mass.-based RSA Security Inc. containing a six-digit code that changes every minute. The code is necessary to log on, so a scammer who guesses or steals a password cannot access the account without the device in hand.

Two-factor authentication — whether through the RSA device, biometrics or cards printed with rotating lists of passwords — is common in Scandinavia, Brazil, Singapore and selected countries. In the United States, its use is largely limited to employees accessing office networks remotely or people with high-value financial portfolios.

AOL spokesman Andrew Weinstein said the move was ripe to offer as subscribers move more of their sensitive personal, business and financial information online.

The offering also comes as scammers increasingly find ways to trick subscribers into giving their passwords by sending e-mail disguised as legitimate information requests.

And with so many sites now requiring passwords, many Internet users have be-



come careless: They create easy-to-remember passwords that tend to be easy to guess — or they write them down on sticky notes and post them at their computers.

By requiring the second, rotating pass-word, "you don't have to remember complicated passwords to still have good security," said Scott Schnell, a senior vice president at RSA Security.

The second password will be required for checking e-mail and accessing services tied to the AOL account, including calendars, stock portfolios and AOL's Bill Pay.

It won't protect services offered by third

parties on the open Internet, outside AOL's walled gardens, except in cases where their statements and other sensitive information are sent to the AOL e-mail account. Nor is the second password needed to use AOL Instant Messenger.

Gartner analyst Avihav Litan believes a "very narrow set of consumers" — perhaps 5 percent to 15 percent of AOL's 30 million subscribers — would sign up, but "you have to start somewhere."

She said AOL's offering likely would prompt other Internet service providers and banks to consider such systems more

seriously, though the prevailing belief these days is that customers will find them difficult to use.

Just this summer, HSBC Bank USA began requiring a second password to access its bill-payment services.

That password is entered using an on-screen keypad to thwart snoops who secretly installed software that records key-strokes as they are typed on a regular keyboard.

Unlike AOL's service, though, neither password automatically changes, nor is there a charge.

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES							
52-week							
High	Low	Net	Last	Net	%	YTD	52-wk
		Change		Change			Change
10,513.1	9,218.7	Dow Jones Industrial	10,630.90	-117.78	-1.12	+3.26	+18.54
3,712.12	2,660.66	Dow Jones Transportation	3,173.97	-26.69	-0.85	+55.51	+17.68
2,564.2	242.26	Dow Jones Utilities	293.06	-1.60	-0.54	+26.10	+33.54
6,798.1	5,614.48	NYSE Composite	6,521.43	-27.11	-0.41	+13.60	+14.82
1,278.88	984.38	Amex Index	1,261.46	-47.76	-3.74	+74.90	+26.79
2,635.1	1,750.82	Nasdaq Composite	1,886.43	-7.72	-0.41	-5.40	+31.81
1,163.23	990.36	S&P 500	1,108.36	-5.20	-0.45	-3.20	+10.47
618.46	507.89	S&P MidCap	585.29	-1.83	-0.31	+1.60	+13.72
696.42	482.13	Russell 2000	565.89	-9.99	-1.75	+1.60	+24.79
11,371.14	9,955.20	DJ Wilshire 5000	10,630.90	-40.73	-0.38	+2.00	+11.25

NYSE				AMEX				NASDAQ			
Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)				Most Active (\$1 or more)			
Name	Vol	Name	Last	Name	Vol	Name	Last	Name	Vol	Name	Last
Capgem	35,925	343	-10	IBM	29,676	34.94	-11	Intel	67,264	26.38	-14
Granville	30,913	61.13	-5.54	United	12,017	31.16	+16	Microsoft	14,615	31.28	-10
Pfizer	29,807	29.93	-17	SemGroup	12,338	31.18	+05	SunMicro	4,905	42.82	-42
United	19,479	31.97	-0.64	BetaFund	7,529	24.34	+30	Cisco	39,929	15.96	-06
ExxonMobil	17,738	47.16	-1.10	OilShops	7,295	10.65	-18	Oracle	7,792	31.05	-09
Johnson	15,511	31.16	-0.17	SPG	5,063	28.25	+29	AppliedMat	6,982	17.16	+05
ExxonMobil	15,511	31.16	-0.17	OilShops	7,295	10.65	-18	United	12,017	31.16	+16
Johnson	15,511	31.16	-0.17	SPG	5,063	28.25	+29	Yahoo	15,881	34.34	+57
Granville	14,834	52.54	-37	WhiteStar	4,887	26.18	+21	WorldStar	11,681	5.88	+11
Granville	14,834	52.54	-37	WhiteStar	4,887	26.18	+21	WorldStar	11,681	5.88	+11

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	Vol	FE	Net	% YTD
Alliant Technology	-	14	58.22	+17.8
Aerodyne	-	17	31.16	+0.48
Bombardier	-	17	52.09	+2.58
General Dynamics	-	27	40.43	-0.18
Lockheed Martin	-	44	44.4	-0.18
Northrop Grumman	-	27	31.16	-0.17
Raytheon	-	27	31.16	-0.17
Boeing	-	27	31.16	-0.17
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KEY MUTUAL FUNDS				
Name	Vol	NAV	Chg	% YTD
Fidelity Invest: Global	21,912	36.85	-19	+1.0
Fidelity Invest: Gnc	6,239	37.57	-16	+1.0
Fidelity Invest: Ultra	6,239	37.57	-16	+1.0
Fidelity Spartan: Gnc	3,946	36.85	-19	+1.0
Fidelity Spartan: Gnc	3,946	36.85	-19	+1.0
Fidelity Spartan: Gnc	3,946	36.85	-19	+1.0
Fidelity Spartan: Gnc	3,946	36.85	-19	+1.0
Fidelity Spartan: Gnc	3,946	36.85	-19	+1.0
Fidelity Spartan: Gnc	3,946	36.85	-19	+1.0
Fidelity Spartan: Gnc	3,946	36.85	-19	+1.0
Fidelity Spartan: Gnc	3,946	36.85	-19	+1.0

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro	\$1.2659
British pound	\$1.85
Japanese yen (Sept. 25)	107.00
South Korean won (Sept. 24)	1,118.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37698
British pound	\$1.85
Canada (Dollar)	0.7262
Denmark (Krone)	\$2.5070
Egypt (Pound)	0.7308
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2314
Hungary (Forint)	199.40
Indonesia (Rupiah)	17,415
Israel (Shekel)	4.2463
Japan (Yen)	107.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.24621
Malaysia (Ringgit)	0.34
Philippines (Peso)	56.31
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	0.1931
Singapore (Dollar)	0.7145
South Korea (Won)	1,118.00
Switzerland (Franc)	0.75
Thailand (Baht)	0.136
Taiwan (Dollar)	1,492.000.00
United Kingdom (Pound)	0.75
United States (Dollar)	1.00
United States (Dollar)	1.00
United States (Dollar)	1.00
United States (Dollar)	1.00
United States (Dollar)	1.00

PRECIOUS METALS	
Gold	\$465.72
Silver	\$16.36
Palladium	\$1,118.00
Platinum	\$1,118.00
Rhodium	\$1,118.00
Ruthenium	\$1,118.00
Titanium	\$1,118.00
Zinc	\$1,118.00
Aluminum	\$1,118.00
Iron	\$1,118.00
Steel	\$1,118.00
Copper	\$1,118.00
Nickel	\$1,118.00
Lead	\$1,118.00
Antimony	\$1,118.00
Vanadium	\$1,118.00
Chromium	\$1,118.00
Manganese	\$1,118.00
Silicon	\$1,118.00
Tungsten	\$1,118.00
Zirconium	\$1,118.00
Barium	\$1,118.00
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Thallium	\$1,118.00
Lead	\$1,118.00
Antimony	\$1,118.00
Vanadium	\$1,118.00
Chromium	\$1

Dry town rethinking

MA ROCKPORT — Residents of this tourist village where alcohol has been banned for nearly 150 years have asked the Legislature to take the first step toward allowing some sales of booze.

Except for a brief period after Prohibition, Rockport has been dry since 1856, when 200 hatchet-wielding women swept through town and destroyed anything containing liquor.

At a town meeting, nearly 1,000 people voted by a 3-to-1 margin to begin allowing the sale of alcohol at restaurants. Liquor stores and bars would still be banned.

The vote asks the state Legislature to approve a home rule petition that would place the issue before town voters in April.

Striker land wanted

HI HONOLULU — The federal government wants to pay \$15.9 million to take over 1,400 acres of pineapple fields and other agriculture land for training the Army's new Stryker Brigade.

The land near Schofield Barracks would be purchased through eminent domain from Campbell Estates, which supports the deal.

Environmentalists and Native Hawaiian groups, however, are expected to oppose the federal condemnation of the land near Schofield Barracks, some of which is currently used by Del Monte to grow pineapples.

The land would be used by the Army for firing ranges and training for the 19-ton Stryker vehicles.

Attic accusation

TX HOUSTON — A teenage girl's claim that she was locked naked in an attic where she was fed bread and water in unsanitary conditions has prompted police and child welfare officials to investigate a residential treatment center.

Child Protective Services and law officers are reviewing the teen's report of abuse at Child and Adolescent Development Inc. in Houston.

Now living at a foster care facility in Brazoria County, the 16-year-old girl spoke of witnessing bathroom beatings with metal hangers and other degrading practices while living at the treatment center, according to the mother of another foster child who is friends with the teen.

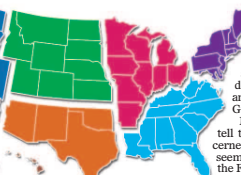
It was unknown when the alleged abuse took place or for how long.

School sickness

MO ST. LOUIS — About 80 students and several adults at a vocational-technical high school became ill after complaints of an unidentified odor.

The Clyde C. Miller Career Academy was evacuated, but Fire Department spokeswoman Kim Bacon said there was no evidence of natural gas, carbon monoxide or other "environmental concerns" that could cause illness.

Several students and some teachers and staff complained of nausea and headaches, school district spokeswoman Karen Hyton said. Some of the sick were treated at the scene; others were treated at two hospitals. None of the illnesses was serious, and no one was hospi-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

talized overnight.

Salute to Otis

NY MASSENA — A decade after his death, Otis Campbell, the town drunk on "The Andy Griffith Show," is the subject of a new book.

Massena historian and author John Michaud tells the *Watertown Daily Times* that actor Hal J. Smith was the "best sober drunk in Hollywood."

Michaud's 72-page book titled "More Than Otis: No Bull! A Salute to Hollywood Actor Hal J. Smith" is a collection of stories about Smith culled from a mix of celebrities such as Andy Griffith and local friends from his northern New York hometown.

Smith graduated from Massena High School in 1936 and went on to a show business career that spanned nearly five decades. Best known for his role on Griffith's show as the lovable town drunk Otis who regularly slept off his intoxication in Mayberry's jail, Smith also appeared on such television shows as "The Brady Bunch" and "The Addams Family."

Farmer cleared in deaths

CA MERCED — A California dairy farmer charged in the deaths of two workers who went into a manure pit without training or safety equipment is innocent of any crime, a Merced jury decided.



Changing color

Olympic College student Kara Walling covers her head with her sweatshirt to keep dry as she walks in the rain to her car on campus in Bremerton, Wash. The leaves around the Bremerton community college are beginning to change into fall colors.

Patrick J. Faria was facing two counts of involuntary manslaughter and charges that he violated the state Labor Code in the deaths of Enrique Araisa and Jose Alatorre on his Gustine dairy.

Members of the jury did tell the court they were concerned that state regulations seemed lax, even years after the Feb. 2, 2001, deaths.

Alatorre had climbed into the pit to unclog it. He was overcome by toxic fumes coming from the mixture of liquid waste at the bottom of the narrow, 40-foot deep pit. He fell and drowned. Araisa climbed in to help Alatorre, and was also asphyxiated by the gases.

Prairie dog protection

SD PIERRE — Conservation groups have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Forest Service and several other agencies, seeking to block a program that calls for the poisoning and shooting of black-tailed prairie dogs on federal land.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Denver, argues that the plan to reduce the prairie dog population in southwestern South Dakota violates national environmental and forest-management laws.

Colonies of black-tailed prairie dogs once were widespread from Canada to Mexico, but the population has decreased through much of that range because of disease, eradication programs and urban sprawl.

House fire kills five

FL HOMESTEAD — A pre-dawn house fire killed five relatives as firefighters had trouble getting into the home because its windows were covered with burglar bars and plywood storm shutters, officials said.

Two adults and three children were found inside the building house, Miami-Dade County Fire Rescue Lt. Eugene Germain said. Four people died at the scene and one died on the way to a hospital, he said.

The victims apparently died of smoke inhalation because the fire did not breach the bedroom, where they all were possibly sleeping, Germain said.

The house didn't have smoke alarms, so the victims may not have even known there was a fire, he said. The victims' identities and exact relations were not immediately available.

Back taxes paid

PA POTTSVILLE — A Pottsville coal company has paid \$44,854 in back taxes to three Carbon County boroughs, preventing a sale of its properties.

Lehigh Coal and Navigation Co., which faces stiff opposition to its proposal to fill a huge mine pit with river dredge, coal ash and kiln dust, owed Lansford \$15,126, Nesquehoning \$9,275 and Summit Hill \$20,453 in 2002 taxes, according to county Tax Claim Bureau Director Marie Midas.

Lehigh Coal President James Curran Jr. has blamed financial setbacks for delays in paying the taxes. The company is struggling with fierce opposition to its plan to fill the so-called Springdale Pit in Coaldale, Pa., with dredge and Summit Hill with the dredge mixture, which opponents fear could pollute the water supply.



Fall decor

Anna Lyles arranges decorations at the Mesilla Valley Maze, a 10-acre corn field cut and groomed into a maze, on the first day of fall, in Las Cruces, N.M.



Rising moon

A Texas flag waves on top of Ameriguest Field in Arlington as a half moon is seen rising in the sky in Arlington, Texas.



Bulldog express

Harrelm Robertson, of Alma, Ark., gives her two-year-old bulldog, Cisco Kidd, a ride around the civic center parking lot in Lubbock, Texas. Robertson is in town for the Heart of the Plains dog show and uses the custom-made bulldog express truck to not only give Cisco a ride but also to transport supplies to the building.



Misty morning

Pete Smith, standing, pilots a model pontoon plane while his brother Randy Smith from Arizona films the flight. They were enjoying the early-morning stillness and mist on Kilinefene Pond in Vancouver, Wash. After a chilly and rainy end to summer, the first few days of autumn have been sunny and dry.



Food fight

Jordan Moore gives her friend Jessica Arnold a face full of mustard in the parking lot of Christ United Methodist Church. The Pine Street High, the church's youth group, held "the world's largest food fight" to kick off the youth ministry year and its weekly Wednesday night services.



Double the fun

Twin sisters Kaelyn, left, and Kelbi Winters, 4, enjoy a couple of snow cones at the Texas State Forest Festival in Lufkin, Texas.

Hybrid car bill

CA SACRAMENTO — Rebuffing lobbying by the chairman of Ford Motor Co., Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a bill Thursday that will let thousands of single-occupant hybrid vehicles use carpool lanes.

The bill allows up to 75,000 hybrids to obtain decals from the state to use carpool lanes without having to have the minimum number of two or three occupants. Other advanced-technology vehicles could also qualify for the program. To obtain the decals, the vehicles would have to get at least 45 miles per gallon and meet tough emission standards.

The new law is scheduled to take effect Jan. 1, but it also needs federal approval to be implemented because federal funds help pay for carpool lanes.

Seaplane festival

ME GREENVILLE — More than 300 planes converged on this lakeside town that remains a jump-off spot for bush pilots heading to even more remote regions of Maine and Canada.

The 31st annual International Seaplane Fly-In drew an estimated 100 seaplanes that landed on Moosehead Lake, and another 200 planes that landed at the local airport. Organizers said the three-day event attracted about 5,000 people.

The event celebrates the marvels of flying and the daring of the bush pilots who shuttle sportsmen, woodsmen and businessmen to fishing camps and logging sites. "For seaplane pilots, it's the biggest event in the United States," said David Quam, founder of the Seaplane Pilots Association.

Wrong moose = fine

WY CHEYENNE — Wyoming Attorney General Patrick Crank pleaded guilty and paid a \$210 fine Wednesday for a hunting violation in which his son illegally shot a female moose.

Saying it was a "stupid mistake" and a "humbling experience," Crank mailed papers to the Lincoln County Circuit Court, pleading guilty to being an accessory to the taking of the wrong sex of a moose and paying the citation.

In a letter to Circuit Judge Frank J. Zebre, Crank said he was hunting with his son around dusk in western Wyoming when they mistook a cow moose for a bull moose and shot it. His son had a state license to shoot a bull moose but not a cow moose.

"We spotted some moose near dark, believed one of the moose was a bull, and I told my son to shoot the animal we believed was a bull," he wrote. "After he shot the animal, and it had rolled down the hill, we discovered that he had killed a cow moose."

They field-dressed the moose, filled out the bull moose license and reported the violation to state Game and Fish warden Todd Graham.

Boy suspected of rape

WI MILWAUKEE — An 11-year-old boy raped an elderly neighborhood woman as three other boys watched, police said.

Police arrested him and three others, Sgt. Ken Henning said.

Henning said the boys had been "terrorizing" the 76-year-old woman in her house for a week, crawling through a window each day and stealing items. The woman lived alone, he said.

The woman alerted police after she was raped by one of the boys while the others — ages 11, 12 and 13 — watched, Henning said.

Henning said the 11-year-old boy admitted to the crime and was arrested on suspicion of sexual assault. The others were arrested on suspicion of being parties to a crime.

JFK Jr. plane for sale

NY SEAFORD — John F. Kennedy Jr.'s first airplane — sold after he bought the ill-fated craft that went down off Martha's Vineyard in 1999 — will be offered for sale online.

The three-bladed propeller plane will carry a reserve price of \$180,000, Internet auctioneer LeLand.com announced.

Bidding will begin online Nov. 10 and will conclude Dec. 2.

Kennedy, editor of *George* magazine, bought the plane in 1998 and sold it in May 1999 after buying the Piper Saratoga that crashed July 17, 1999, killing him, his wife Carolyn and his sister-in-law.

The plane's owner, who wants to remain anonymous, originally put it up for sale through another auction house in 2000 but did not find a buyer.

Peppers harm workers

NC CONOVER — Workers unloading a shipment at Laneventure Furniture complained of burning eyes, irritated skin, breathing difficulties and nausea.

Three were taken to the hospital, where emergency workers said the workers appeared to have been hit with pepper spray.

And in a way, they were. It turns out the culprit was hot chili peppers.

The truck the men were unloading was used to haul a shipment of dried Chile de Arbol peppers from California to El Paso, Texas.

Residue from the peppers lay dormant in the truck's wooden floorboards while the furniture was loaded, but became agitated and airborne during the trip to the furniture distributor's Conover plant, said Dave Weldon, emergency services director for Catawba County.

Laneventure ordered pizza for everyone after the ordeal, said Art Thompson, Laneventure's president.

"We told them to hold the chili peppers," he said.

Bus driver charged

NH BEDFORD — A former school bus driver has been charged with selling marijuana to a teenager who used to ride her bus.

Police said Nancy Hatch, 40, of Manchester, was arrested in a sting after the student's parents found marijuana at their home in Bedford.

Police said a search of Hatch's apartment yielded a pound of marijuana and \$490.

She was released on \$10,000 bail on charges of endangering the welfare of a child and possession and sale of illegal drugs.

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2004

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 Jackie Chan Adventures	9:30 Movie *** "Mrs. Doubtfire" (1993) Robin Williams. A man who poses as a nanny to be with his children.	Jimmy Neutron	Radio Free Roscoe	Nightline	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Clean House	Radio Free Roscoe
9:30 Kim Possible "Vin-Vin-Ron"	10:00 Teen Titans	All That Singer Crack Mack	The Best of '24/7 Sports'	Army Newswatch	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	BBO With Bobby Play	The Best of '24/7 Sports'
10:30 X-Men: Evolution Ninja Turf	10:30 Dragonball GT	Lizzie McGuire "Burkes Switched" "Mall and Mink"	Access Hollywood	Harbort with Chris Matthews	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	SBS 5-day	Access Hollywood
11:30 X-Men: Evolution	11:30 X-Men: Evolution	The Best of '24/7 Sports'	Headline News	Detective NBC	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Relatively Famous	Headline News
12:00 Teen Kids News (E)	12:00 Teen Kids News (E)	My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids	The O'Reilly Factor	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Ultimate Hollywood Blonde	My Wife and Kids
12:30 Tutenstein Frustrated!	12:30 Movie *** "Phenomenon" (1996) Denzel Washington. A small-town mechanic is gifted with amazing mental powers.	WWE Raw	CSI: Miami "The Best Defense"	CNN Saturday Morning	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Intimate Portrait "Pat Gier"	CSI: Miami "The Best Defense"
12:30 Endurance: A New West (E)	13:30 Scout's Safari (E)	My Wife and Kids	Headline News	Today	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Antiques Roadshow "Seattle, Washington" (Part 3 of 3)	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Coerced"
14:30 Animal Kidding	14:30 Most Extreme: Births Extreme	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Coerced"	Headline News	Saturday Night Live	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Star Trek: Voyager "Time and Again"	Headline News
15:00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys	17:00 Hey Arnold!	Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.	Wall Street Journal Report	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Ripley's Believe It or Not	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.
17:00 Hey Arnold!	17:30 Rocket Power	Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.	America's Black Forum	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Fear Factor	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.
17:30 SpongeBob SquarePants	18:30 Rugrats	Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	What Not to Wear "Ellen" A newly-thin fitness instructor.	College Football North Carolina State at Virginia Tech. (Live)
18:30 Rugrats	19:00 Movie "Motocrossed" (2001) Adventure! Alana Austin, Mary Margaret Humes.	Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Trading Spaces	College Football North Carolina State at Virginia Tech. (Live)
19:00 Movie "Motocrossed" (2001) Adventure! Alana Austin, Mary Margaret Humes.	20:30 Movie *** "Jettison: The Movie" (1990) Voices of George O'Hanlon, Mel Blanc.	Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Crossing Jordan	College Football North Carolina State at Virginia Tech. (Live)
20:30 Movie *** "Jettison: The Movie" (1990) Voices of George O'Hanlon, Mel Blanc.	21:00 My So-Called Life "Father Figure"	Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Strong Medicine "Degeneration"	College Football North Carolina State at Virginia Tech. (Live)
21:00 My So-Called Life "Father Figure"	22:30 The Simpsons	Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	Friends	College Football North Carolina State at Virginia Tech. (Live)
22:30 The Simpsons	23:30 The Simpsons	Headline News	Kickin' It Latest in music and sports.	College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball Teams to Be Announced.	The Real World "Punk'd"	College Football North Carolina State at Virginia Tech. (Live)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2004

00:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	1:00 Movie *** "Money" (1991) Robert Redford. A man who poses as a nanny to be with his children.	10:00 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
00:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	1:30 Movie *** "Diamonds Are Forever" (1971) Sean Connery. A man who poses as a nanny to be with his children.	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
1:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	1:30 Movie *** "Diamonds Are Forever" (1971) Sean Connery. A man who poses as a nanny to be with his children.	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
1:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	2:00 Movie *** "Jettison: The Movie" (1990) Voices of George O'Hanlon, Mel Blanc.	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
2:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	2:30 Movie *** "Jettison: The Movie" (1990) Voices of George O'Hanlon, Mel Blanc.	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
2:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	3:00 Movie *** "Jettison: The Movie" (1990) Voices of George O'Hanlon, Mel Blanc.	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
3:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	3:30 Movie *** "Jettison: The Movie" (1990) Voices of George O'Hanlon, Mel Blanc.	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
3:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	4:00 My So-Called Life "Father Figure"	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
4:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	4:30 Sesame Street (E)	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
4:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	5:00 Barney & Friends (E)	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
5:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	5:30 Barney & Friends (E)	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
5:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	6:00 Barney & Friends (E)	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
6:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	6:30 Barney & Friends (E)	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
6:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	7:00 Sylvester & Tweety	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
7:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	7:30 Scooby Doo	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
7:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	8:00 The Magic School Bus	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
8:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	8:30 Adventures-Book of Virtues	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
8:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	9:00 House of Mouse	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
9:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	9:30 Animaniacs	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
9:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	10:00 Ed, Edd & Eddy	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
10:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	10:30 Fillmore (E)	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
10:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	11:00 Out There: Homeless Blues	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
11:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	11:30 Planet's Funniest Animals	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
11:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	12:00 In the Mix "Living With..."	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
12:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	12:30 Happy Days	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
12:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	13:00 Movie *** "Smart House" (1999) Comedy Ryan Reynolds, Kiefer Sutherland, Kevin Connolly. A man who poses as a nanny to be with his children.	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
13:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	13:30 Movie *** "Miracle in Lane 2" (2000) Drama Frank M. Oz, Patrick Levey.	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
13:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	14:00 Hey Arnold!	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
14:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	14:30 Rocket Power	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
14:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	15:00 Rugrats	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
15:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	15:30 The Crocodile Hunter	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
15:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	16:00 America's Funniest Home Videos	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
16:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	16:30 Glimores Girls "Chicken or Beef?"	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
16:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	17:00 American Dreams "And Promises to Keep"	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
17:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	17:30 The Cosby Show	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
17:30 Futurama "My Three Sons"	18:00 Home Improvement	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels
18:00 Futurama "My Three Sons"	18:30 Touched by an Angel "Symptoms for the Devil"	10:30 College Football Teams to Be Announced.	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:00 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels	11:30 TV	MLB Baseball: Dodgers at Giants or Athletics at Angels

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One actor's motto ...

'I gotta be good'

Aaron Eckhart has a philosophical belief that acting is similar to dragon slaying. Eckhart carried this mindset as he worked on his new movie, "Suspect Zero," in which he portrays an FBI agent searching for a serial killer.



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/RT

BY LUANEE LEE
Scripps Howard News Service

You might call actor Aaron Eckhart a dragon slayer. At least that's how he characterizes acting. "Good acting is like a dragon," he says.

"You try to jump on the back of the dragon, and it always wants to knock you off. So you have to climb back and slay the dragon. Every time you act, it's like you're that kid trying to kill the monster, in a way."

The guy who wooed Julia Roberts in "Erin Brockovich" and Gwyneth Paltrow in "Possession" got his real start as the vengeful woman-hater in "The Company of Men." It was this independent film — directed by his former Brigham Young University classmate, Neil LaBute — that armed him with the Excalibur and brought him to movies like "The Missing," "The Core" and his latest, "Suspect Zero."

In "Suspect Zero," Eckhart not only defeats the dragon, he slays the demon that bedevils his character, an FBI agent in search of a mysterious serial killer. When he becomes the target of a maniacal adversary, it takes more than FBI protocol to determine just who is the prey.

Eckhart, who lived in northern California most of his life, left home the day he graduated for the Great White Way. His first paying gig was as part of the background in a beer commercial. But it earned enough in residuals to keep him going for four and a half years. His girlfriend and his job as a waiter also helped support him. Although he's good at most everything he tries, he said he was a terrible waiter at first.

"I didn't know what capers were. I had to make tuna tartare in front of these people. I didn't know anything about wine. I literally would have hot flashes before work. I would have nightmares. It was so tough. But I conquered that restaurant, and I became the head bartender, and I was good at the end."

"In college, I got a pretty good GPA. If I wanted it, I got straight A's. Like in acting, I can't see that there's any room for failure in that. A person can learn to act. I think I can teach anybody to act. It's how you approach it. Now

this is the big thing about life: First of all, anybody can do anything. We have everything inside of us to do everything," he says.

When Eckhart was 13, his family began traveling abroad because of his father's work in computer finance. He lived in England, Australia, France and Switzerland. The youngest of three boys and a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, he was always good at sports — from surfing to skiing to rugby.

Moving to England was a turning point in his life, he thinks. "I was in private school. The whole thing was absolutely mind-blowingly freaky. It was raining the whole time. It was gray — the streets, the people. These little cramped apartments. Come on, I was from California. I was starting to surf. I was going into the eighth grade. I was blond and wearing Vans and skateboarding. But then we made friends from Sweden and Iran and all over the world."

"My older brother didn't go — he stayed in Santa Barbara and surfed — but my middle brother went. I went to Australia by myself with my parents and then I went to France and Switzerland by myself. I feel I have a better understanding of America [because I] lived abroad."

"The Company of Men" not only ignited Eckhart's career, it elicited strange reactions from women. "Women sort of liked that. Some women got turned on by it. I did have encounters with girls I wanted to go out with who wouldn't go out with me because they remembered me from that film. They would have a visceral reaction to me when they first met me, and I would have to get over that," he says.

Next up for Eckhart, 36, is a film called "Never Was" to be shot in Canada, with Nick Nolte, Jessica Lange, Ian McKellen, Brittany Murphy and Alan Cumming.

"I'm always scared I can't do it," he admits. "I'm always scared I'm going to ruin the movie. But in this business, you don't have a choice. Once I say I'm doing it, I have to do it, and I have to bring myself up to the challenge. I know Nick Nolte's going to be great. I know Jessica Lange's going to be great. Ian McKellen's going to be great. So what choice do I have? I gotta be good."

Godiva auctions famous dinner dates

A chance to see and be seen with Leonardo DiCaprio in Los Angeles. Or eat clam chowder with Ben Affleck in Boston. Or dine with Ricky Martin in Miami. These aren't necessarily fantasies for those with deep, charitable pockets.

These celebs — as well as Sarah Jessica Parker and Benjamin Bratt — will auction dinner in their company for charities they have chosen individually. The bidding is being held on a Web site run by eBay, accessible through Godiva.com, the sponsor of the fund-raiser.

The winning bidder can bring seven friends to the dinner, each of which will be created by a well-known chef and topped off by a new truffle from Godiva. For the hosting celebrities, the pressure to entertain their guests is clear.

Martin was interested in talking about his charity, People for Children, a project of the Ricky Martin Foundation. The Latin singer created the organization in 1997 to help eliminate the trafficking of children.

The other dinners will raise money for various causes including the prevention of global warming and UNICEF.



Martin

Robert Downey Jr. flexes his pipes

Robert Downey Jr. is moving from the big screen to the music scene.

The "Gothika" and "Chaplin" star has signed an exclusive recording contract with the Sony Classical label.

"Robert is a brilliantly gifted songwriter who writes lyrics that are wise and moving," Sony Classical President Peter Gelb said Wednesday. "His burnished, smoky voice is an expressive and touching medium for the songs that he has written."



Downey Jr.

Downey's debut CD, not yet titled, will include two covers — "Smile" by Charlie Chaplin and "Your Move" by Yes — and eight pop ballads written, sung and played on the piano by the actor.

Hilton not looking for 'looks'

Paris Hilton says "looks don't matter anymore" when it comes to her dating preferences.

Hilton told "Access Hollywood" that in her search for Mr. Right, she'd rather have someone with a good heart. "It's all about how nice they are. At this point, I want to find a guy who's right for me. I want someone who's going to treat me well and love me."

Hilton, who broke up with Backstreet Boy Nick Carter this summer, starred in two seasons of the Fox reality show "The Simple Life." She recently published a memoir, "Confessions of an Heiress: A Tongue-in-Chic Peek Behind the Pose," and launched a jewelry collection.

"I'd rather have someone with a good heart than some good-looking idiot with no brain, because looks fade and I know that. I know that I'm not going to be good-looking forever," she said. "No one is, so it doesn't matter."



Hilton

Musicians join forces for benefit album

Paul McCartney, Eric Clapton, Sting and U2 are joining forces on a benefit album for Burmese democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi.

R.E.M., Avril Lavigne, Coldplay and Travis are also contributing to a 27-track CD, "For the Lady: Dedicated to Freeing Aung San Suu Kyi."

Proceeds from the CD will go to the U.S. Campaign for Burma, it was announced Tuesday.

Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of the National League for Democracy opposition party, has spent most of the past 14 years under house arrest.

The military junta in her country, also called Myanmar, has tolerated little dissent since taking power after crushing a 1988 pro-democracy demonstration. The junta refused to hand over power or convene parliament after Suu Kyi's party won 1990 elections.

The album will feature a U2 song, "Walk On," which is dedicated to Suu Kyi and has been banned in Myanmar.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



PARAMOUNT PICTURES/SHNS

Before Aaron Eckhart's roles in well-known films, such as "The Core," he debuted as the vengeful woman-hater in the independent film "The Company of Men."

Horoscope

If you've got something to rant about, you'd better get it out now or forever hold your peace. Tomorrow, aggressive Mars enters diplomatic Libra, where it will traverse until Nov. 11. This transit has the effect of putting an angry person in a pink room—who can stay angry in a pink room? A calming, pacifying energy takes hold.

Joyce Jillson



TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(September 25). An exciting year lies ahead for you, one full of optimism, opportunity and well-deserved recognition. In typical Libra fashion, you take it all in stride, never letting your good fortune go to your head or forgetting the little people who knew you when. Your charisma draws lovers and friends to your side like moths to a flame. Love signs are Cancer and Leo.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

When the captain says, "Who will go?" you don't hesitate to put up your hand and say, "I will!" You're eager to taste life in all its fullness, which means charging forward when others around you are running away.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20).

You'll be sizing up the competition, and it actually inspires you when you find out that you're up against some tough cookies. Don't feel you've got to sprint ahead to win. Your usual cool, steady stride will get you there in style.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Possibly nobody is hearing what you've got to say. But as long as people are doing what you want them to do, what does it matter? You'll rely more on your intuitive knowledge than semantics. Choose your company well tonight.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Sometimes, you just have to put the cart before the horse—like when there's a sale on carts, for instance. Go ahead, and act on faith. You'll find your "horses" in no time and then be able to get everything in the proper order again.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).

There's no holding you back now, when everything you touch turns to gold. You wow them with a work with a bril-

liant proposal and still have the stamina to go out partying at night. Needless to say, you turn heads wherever you go.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).

Someone in your life isn't pulling his or her own weight. Now's a good time to take stock of your friends and business associates. If someone else's problems are dragging you down, it's time to think about cutting bait.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).

Some people are there to take care of you, and some people are there to take what they can get. Your job is to tell the difference and do what's right for you. Activities you do on a whim lead to fortuitous meetings.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

Something from your past resurfaces. It could be a problem you thought you'd seen the last of, or an old love you hoped to be reunited with, or something as mundane as a lost earring that turns up between the sofa cushions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).

Hard work over the past couple of weeks—not to mention schmoozing with all the right people—could pay off in a big way. Go ahead and indulge yourself with a little reward. Loved ones spoil you rotten tonight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).

Even the most obsessive of workaholics needs to have a little fun every now and then. If single, drag yourself away from your desk, and hook up with your friends. You can learn a lot from their carefree style.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

Membership has its privileges, and you'll enjoy a few of those. You'll be happy you put forth the effort required to be part of a group. Be frank with people you don't know well. White lies will come back to haunt you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

Breathe a sigh of relief because your load gets a lot lighter and your mood gets a lot brighter. Enjoy the fresh sense of creativity and mental stimulation that the stars bring you. Take time out with friends and loved ones.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red and Rover



Better or Worse



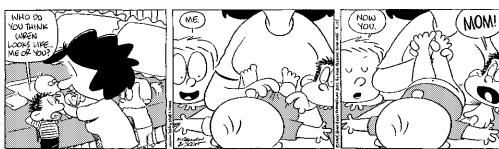
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



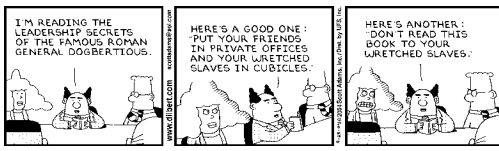
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



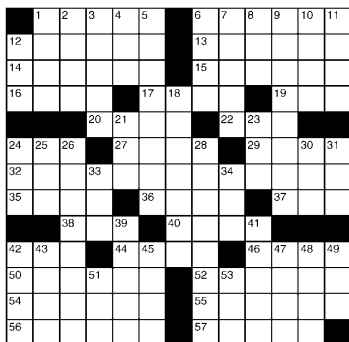
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



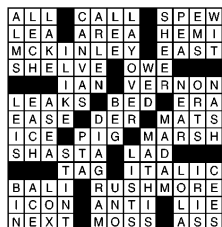
Across

- 1 In accompaniment
- 6 Range portion
- 12 "20 Questions" category
- 13 One known for cutting remarks?
- 14 J. Lo biopic
- 15 "Moonlight," e.g.
- 16 Booty
- 17 Burn a bit
- 19 Part of CRT
- 20 1997 Andrea Bocelli album
- 22 Affirmative action?
- 24 Actor McBride
- 27 Understands, in Aberdeen
- 29 Humdrum
- 32 1970s sitcom
- 35 Ratio phrase
- 36 Paddock papa
- 37 Snake eyes
- 38 Early bird?
- 40 Vortex
- 42 Yon lassie
- 44 Mark replacement
- 46 "Zounds!"
- 50 Pizza topping
- 52 Subtlety
- 54 Kay Thompson heroine
- 55 Mideast nation
- 56 Mended, in a way
- 57 Tilt

Down

- 1 From the top
- 2 Actress Kedrova
- 3 The end
- 4 Tandoori bread
- 5 Berg castoffs
- 6 Arizona city
- 7 Decorate
- 8 Clerical error?
- 9 Carmichael classic
- 10 Tittle
- 11 Unravel
- 12 Ninny
- 13 More convenient
- 14 Theater letters
- 15 Ancient
- 16 Forensics drama
- 17 Possesses
- 18 Gae Norton's department
- 21 Mocking
- 22 Despondent
- 23 Important number
- 24 Visibility hindrance
- 25 "Waking — Devine"
- 26 Sleem members
- 27 Did some weeding
- 28 Scat specialist
- 29 Secondhand
- 30 Summerline pest
- 31 Dogfight fighters
- 32 N.J., neighbor
- 33 Sportscaster
- 34 Scully
- 35 Dos Passos trilogy

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-25

CRYPTOQUIP

M DMRJ NV IJDMJFJ Z
LYQMHHJD'L DMFMUK
YQZHNJHL BVQDP IJ BZDDJP

Z UQNBH ZBRJH LQMNJ
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU PLAY A SCALE ON A FRESHLY POLISHED PIANO, YOU MIGHT GO FROM C TO SHINING C.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals R

SCOREBOARD

AFM TV & Radio

Saturday

AFN-Pacific, 4 a.m. — College football: BYU at Boise 5.

AFN-Sports, 4 a.m. — Baseball: Los Angeles at San Francisco.

AFN-Sports, 730 a.m. — College football: Air Force at San Francisco (with De Berni).

AFN-Sports, 10 a.m. — Pro football: Baltimore vs. Washington (with De Berni).

AFN-Sports, 1 p.m. — Baseball: Oakland at Anaheim (with Michigan).

AFN-Sports, 6 p.m. — College football: North Carolina State vs. Clemson.

AFN-Pacific, 6 p.m. — College football: Boston College at Wake Forest.

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m. — Baseball: teams TBA.

AFN-Sports, 930 p.m. — College football: Iowa State at Michigan.

AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m. — College football: Arkansas at Alabama (with De Berni).

AFN-Pacific, 10 p.m. — Baseball: Oakland at Anaheim.

Sunday

AFN-Pacific, 1 a.m. — College football: Southern Cal at Stanford.

AFN-Sports, 1 a.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Busch Series, Stacker 200 (did).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — College football: Air Force at Utah (did).

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. — Tennis: Davis Cup semifinals, United States vs. Belarus (did).

AFN-Pacific, 10 a.m. — College football: Penn St. at Wisconsin (did).

AFN-Atlantic, 10 a.m. — Pro football: Philadelphia at Pittsburgh.

AFN-Pacific, 7 p.m. — Pro football: Jacksonville at Miami.

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Nextel Cup, Martinsville 400 (did).

AFN-Atlantic, 10 p.m. — Pro football: San Diego at New York.

AFN-Sports, 1030 p.m. — Baseball: Los Angeles at San Francisco (interim in progress).

All times Central European Time; did indicates time-delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. No radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.myafm.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	Pct	PF	PA	
New England	2	0	1.000	59	26	
New York Jets	2	0	1.000	65	26	
Buffalo	1	0	1.000	65	26	
South						
Jacksonville	0	0	1.000	20	16	
Indianapolis	1	0	1.000	55	44	
Tennessee	1	0	1.000	54	38	
Houston	0	0	1.000	30	35	
West						
Baltimore	1	0	1.000	33	33	
Cincinnati	1	0	1.000	40	44	
Cleveland	1	0	1.000	32	22	
Pittsburgh	1	0	1.000	32	22	
North						
Denver	1	0	1.000	40	31	
Oakland	1	0	1.000	34	34	
San Diego	1	0	1.000	52	54	
Kansas City	0	0	1.000	41	62	

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	Pct	PF	PA	
Philadelphia	2	0	1.000	58	33	
Dallas	2	0	1.000	55	47	
N.Y. Giants	1	0	1.000	37	45	
Washington	1	0	1.000	30	33	
South						
Atlanta	0	0	1.000	55	55	
Carolina	1	0	1.000	42	41	
Cincinnati	1	0	1.000	42	41	
Tampa Bay	0	0	1.000	26	26	
North						
Detroit	0	0	1.000	48	32	
Green Bay	1	0	1.000	50	37	
Minnesota	1	0	1.000	51	44	
West						
Seattle	1	0	1.000	44	41	
San Francisco	1	0	1.000	44	41	
Arizona	0	0	1.000	22	40	

Sunday's games

Arizona at Atlanta.

Philadelphia at Detroit (radio in N.Y. Giants).

Philadelphia at Miami.

New England at Kansas City.

New Orleans at St. Louis.

Tennessee at Tennessee.

Baltimore at Cincinnati.

Cleveland at Minnesota.

San Diego at Denver.

San Francisco at Indianapolis.

San Francisco at Seattle.

Seattle at Oakland.

Idaho, Buffalo, New England, N.Y. Jets.

Dallas at Washington.

Oakland at Oakland.

Philadelphia at Green Bay.

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh.

New England at Buffalo.

Indianapolis at Jacksonville.

Washington at New York.

New Orleans at Arizona.

Atlanta at Carolina.

N.Y. Jets at Miami.

Tennessee at San Diego.

Denver at Tampa Bay.

St. Louis at San Francisco.

Idaho, Dallas, Detroit, Minnesota, Seattle.

Monday, Oct. 4.

Kansas City at Baltimore.

College football

AP Top 25 schedule

Friday, Sept. 24

No. 21 Boise State at, BYU

Saturday, Sept. 25

No. 1 Southern Cal at Stanford

No. 9 Texas vs. Rice

No. 16 Virginia vs. James Madison

No. 8 Florida State vs. Clemson

No. 9 Auburn vs. The Citadel

No. 11 Tennessee vs. Louisiana Tech

No. 12 Utah vs. Syracuse

No. 13 LSU vs. Mississippi State

No. 14 Virginia at Air Force

No. 15 Purdue vs. Illinois

No. 16 Florida vs. Kentucky

No. 18 Michigan vs. Iowa

No. 20 Wisconsin vs. Penn State

No. 22 Wisconsin at Oregon State

No. 23 Maryland at Duke

No. 24 Louisville at North Carolina

Thursday's scores

EAST

La Salle 30, St. Peter 27

MIDWEST

Akron 24, Kent St. 17

SOUTH

Miami 38, Houston 15

Pro soccer

Major League Soccer

Eastern Conference						
Club	W	L	Pct	GF	GA	
Columbus	10	6	.615	43	44	
Columbo	9	8	.524	33	44	
Chicago	6	11	.353	29	47	
New England	6	11	.353	29	47	

Western Conference						
Club	W	L	Pct	GF	GA	
Kansas City	12	4	.750	35	29	
Colorado	10	8	.556	38	38	
San Jose	9	9	.500	38	38	
San Jose	9	9	.500	38	38	

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Saturday's games

C.D. United at Columbus

Chicago at Colorado

Colorado at Kansas City

New England at Chicago

Los Angeles at San Jose

Washington, Sept. 26

Chicago at Columbus

Colorado at Kansas City

C.D. United at Montreal

San Jose at Colorado

Kansas City at Los Angeles

Pro basketball

WNBA playoffs

FIRST ROUND (Best-of-three)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Washington at Washington

Saturday, Sept. 25

Connecticut at Washington

Monday, Sept. 27

Washington at Connecticut

Wednesday, Sept. 29

Washington at Connecticut

Friday, Sept. 30

New York vs. Detroit

Seattle vs. Minnesota

New York at Detroit

Saturday, Sept. 26

Detroit at New York

Tuesday, Sept. 28

Detroit at New York

Western Conference

Los Angeles vs. Sacramento

Los Angeles at Sacramento

Los Angeles at Los Angeles

Sacramento at Los Angeles

Sacramento at Los Angeles

Seattle at Minnesota

Saturday, Sept. 26

Minnesota at Seattle

Monday, Sept. 27

Seattle at Minnesota

Wednesday, Sept. 29

Minnesota at Seattle

Tennis

China Open

Friday

At The Beijing Tennis Center

Women's Singles

Purse: \$585,000 (Tier II)

Quarterfinals

Maria Sharapova (2), Russia, def. Jelena Jankovic (1), Serbia, 6-2, 6-1.

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Svetlana Kuznetsova (2), Russia, def. Gisela Dulko (1), Argentina, 6-4, 6-2.

Marina Erakovic (1), Croatia, def. Nadia Petrova (5), Russia, 6-2, 4-1, retired.

Medina Petkovic (4), Russia, def. E. L. Arredondo (1), Spain, 6-2, 6-3.

Davis Cup

World Group playoffs

Australia 1, Morocco 0

Wayne Arthurs, Australia, def. Mehdi El Mehdi, Morocco, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Lyonel Hewitt, Australia, def. Mehdi El Mehdi, Morocco, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Cliff Rogers, Australia, def. Mehdi El Mehdi, Morocco, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Carlo Miele, Australia, def. Mehdi El Mehdi, Morocco, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

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Putting around with golf might be a hazzardous for IOC

Think the dozen golfers on the U.S. Ryder Cup team looked dyspeptic last weekend getting drummed by Europe? Just wait. The real fun will come just a few years off.

One day, those pampered souls and their putters might have to face Fiji, mighty Fiji, in the Olympics. The soonest it could happen is the 2012 Games, and that's only if the International Olympic Committee gets its way. You'd think taking junkets all the time and handing out medals every four years — not to mention taking one back occasionally — would be tiring enough to keep the swells who run the IOC from hatching grand new plans in between. But no.

Jim Iltke



It's hard to muster strong feelings about rugby, squash, karate and roller sports, but golf is a different matter. Like mountain climbing, choral singing, dumbbell-swinging, still fishing and tug of war, it was once part of the Olympic roster. Golf was dropped following the 1904 St. Louis Games and there hasn't been much clamor for its return before now, other than some preliminary discussions in 1992, when the Atlanta power brokers who locked up the 1996 Summer Games dangled the possibility of playing matches at nearby Augusta National.

Golf certainly satisfies the most important criteria laid out for a sport to join the Olympics. It has an ever-growing number of participants and spectators around the globe, and the past dozen years have seen the emergence of world-class professionals in even the most far-flung corners.

But let's be clear about this: What makes golf considerably more popular than the IOC and NBC is money, money and more money.

Enough to line the pockets of most everybody involved.

However, the last time the subject came up, most of the talent had too much money at stake and too little time to voluntarily punch a two-week hole in their

schedules to represent their country free of charge.

Peter Dawson, secretary of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, has already gone on record saying neither the PGA nor European Tour were thrilled by the idea. Small wonder. Like tennis, another proven moneymaker jammed into the Olympic schedule without much fanfare and even less return, it remains to be seen whether the public would buy into an Olympic golf tournament as a way of producing a true world champion.

The U.S. golfers, to be sure, won't march willingly in anybody's opening ceremony parade. The last time the subject was broached, the late Payne Stewart, a veteran of Ryder Cup and several other international competitions, shook his head slowly and smiled.

"That might take some convincing," he said. "Most everybody out here is used to playing for something."

Anybody who heard all the whimpering that followed their latest humbling in the Ryder Cup was reminded of that. A dozen U.S. players are already committed to that event and the Presidents Cup in alternating years, and a few of the top-ranked golfers usually compete in the World and Dunhill Cups. And the last thing the Olympics need is another set of disgruntled pros expressing that unhappiness by tearing through the minbars in some five-star hotel.

Besides, the idle rich already have enough to do in the Olympics. Even forgetting all the pros from moneyed sports like basketball, tennis and hockey, they've cornered the market on sailing and equestrian. And with figure skating, synchronized swimming and gymnastics already part of the Games, who needs another set of high-strung actors decked out in bad costumes?

IOC president Jacques Rogge repeatedly has said the roster is frozen at 28 sports, with around 10,500 athletes and spectators. It's not as if he's mind-boggling to think what could have happened if basketball dancing went big-time and Don King horned in. Anybody for a "Last Tango in Paris"?

Jim Iltke is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jiltke@ap.org.



Seeking his fifth victory in his past six tournaments, world No. 1 Vijay Singh broke 70 for the 53rd time this year on Thursday.

Singh hammers field in 84 Lumber Classic with a first-round 64

The Associated Press

FARMINGTON, Pa. — Vijay Singh walked off the Mystic Rock course with a three-shot lead during the first round of the 84 Lumber Classic. Before he returned to the clubhouse, he had won.

Ben Curtis, the 2003 British Open champion, started his second round with a 5-under par 31 on the front nine Friday, moving to 10-under for the tournament. Two shots ahead of Singh, who started his round later on Friday.

The way Singh is playing these days, that's about the only way for the rest of the PGA Tour to get a jump on him.

Curtis was three back following an opening round 5-under 67, then went birdie-birdie to start the second round at the Nemacolin Woodlands Resort, a mountaintop resort with so many amenities that some players joked they almost didn't want to leave their luxurious rooms.

Curtis has missed the cut in his past five tournaments since finishing 30th in the U.S. Open and hasn't placed higher than eighth in 17 events this year.

His front-side 31 included five birdies and matched Singh's opening round Thursday, when the world's No. 1-ranked player got off to a fast start in pursuit of a fifth championship in the past six tournaments he has entered.

Kent Jones was also making a move, following an opening-round 69 with a 4-under 32 on the front nine to close to within one shot of Singh.

About one-fifth of the field finished a fog-delayed first round Friday morning before moving on to the second round, which was being played under sunny skies on an unusually warm late September day in southwestern Pennsylvania. A daytime high of 85 degrees was forecast.

During the first round, it was a case of different tournament, different course, same old song — or, make that, the same old Singh.

Singh said he was nearly perfect during an 8-under 64 Thursday that left him three ahead of the field. It was difficult to argue. Singh had an eagle and six bird-



ies in a bogey-free round that was his 53rd of the year in the 60s. It also was his fourth round of 65 or lower in five tournaments, beginning with his victory last month in the PGA Championship.

Montgomerie misses cut in European Tour event

WOBBURN, England — Five days after making the putt that won the Ryder Cup, Colin Montgomerie missed the cut in a European PGA tour event Friday.

Montgomerie shot a second-round 5-over 77 in the Heritage and finished three strokes outside the cut line.

Graeme McDowell, who shot 4-under 68, and Phillip Price, who carded 67, shared the lead at 9-under after 36 holes.

Swedes Patrik Sjöland and Henrik Stenson were one stroke out of the lead after rounds of 68 and 67, respectively.

Montgomerie never recovered from a double-bogey 7 on his first hole, the 10th. He also bogeyed the 14th and 16th. After a birdie on No. 18, he double-bogeyed the 136-yard second hole when his tee shot flew over the green. Two bogeys and two birdies followed.

"I came here to try and get into the top five to qualify for next week's Amex Championship in Ireland," Montgomerie said. "I didn't do it and now I have a week off. It's probably a blessing in disguise."

Kim's 64 leads LPGA's Longs Drugs Challenge

AUBURN, Calif. — Christina Kim shot a 7-under 64 on Thursday and held a one-stroke lead over Rachel Teske after the first round of the LPGA Longs Drugs Challenge.

Kim didn't have a bogey on an almost windless day at the Ridge Golf Club, a 6,235-yard layout that is a new venue for the nine-year-old tournament.

Kim was two strokes ahead of Juli Inkster, a two-time winner of this tournament, Beth Bauer, Miriam Nagel and Michelle Estill.

Stalled talks prolong NHL lockout

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's been a week without progress in the NHL lockout. So far, there have been no overtures from the league or the players to resume talks to save a season that is already starting to slip into the abyss.

Not since the players' association made a proposal on Sept. 9 have the sides been in contact, much less sat down at a negotiating table. The final six days of the old collective bargaining agreement passed with no movement, and commissioner Gary Bettman imposed the lockout when the deal expired Sept. 15.

Training camps were supposed to open the next day — but didn't.

And ever since, NHL teams have been calling off preseason games and the opening few games of the regular season, scheduled to start on Sept. 13.

It's the third time an NHL season has been interrupted by a labor dispute; this might end up

being a longer lockout than the one that lasted 103 days and cut the 1994-95 season to 48 games.

"I would hope that at some point they would view it as in their court to reach out and call us and get something going again," said Bill Daly, the NHL's chief legal officer.

Clubs have been given permission to release previously booked dates for games on a 30-day rolling basis. So every day that passes will knock another possible playing date off the calendar.

The only talking that's taken place recently involved media interviews.

Both Daly and NHLPA senior director Ted Saskin appeared on U.S. and Canadian telecasts of the final game of the Cup last week in Toronto. They shared the same cramped broadcast booths and stated their cases, but left without direct discussion.

"I see it, the last proposal was the name of the game, but I don't see the ball in its court," Saskin said.

Bettman took part in a town-meeting telecast on Canadian television Tuesday. NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow pressed the union's position in a similar format Wednesday. But neither side seems ready to make another offer. Already, more than 100 employees from the NHL's central staff of about 225 have lost their jobs.

"I feel for the people who work in the buildings, and the effect it will be on the economy in a lot of places," Hall of Fame coach Scotty Bowman told The Canadian Press. "It's going to have quite a trickle-down effect on a lot of people's lives, and that's the most unfortunate aspect."

The NHLPA turned away six proposals by the league during the summer, rejecting them on the basis that each contained a salary-cap structure — a notion the league disputed. That was followed by the union's luxury-tax offer that was quickly dismissed.

"There's no real common ground to how to find the common ground," Saskin said.

J. Gordon counting every point in chase for fifth championship

BY DICK BRINSTER
The Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — With four drivers separated by 10 points in the Nextel Cup standings, Jeff Gordon knows the best way to win the championship is to be obsessed with gaining even the slightest advantage.

He wants to qualify well, get a favorable pit stall and lead as many laps as possible. Those factors are always a key to success, but they seem even more important under the new system that reset the top 10 cars only 45 points apart for the final 10 laps of the season.

Attention to detail is nothing new for the four-time NASCAR champion. So, he says Sunday's race at Dover International Speedway actually begins with qualifying Friday, when he'll try to extend his series lead in poles with a seventh.

"The obvious advantage is less traffic to deal with and track position," Gordon said. "Because pit lane is so narrow, a small stall at Dover, it seems we fight harder for track position."

Gordon has made great use of the key to maintaining it is getting in and out of the pits quickly. The outcome of qualifying determines the selection order of pit stalls.

"That's a big advantage," Gordon, a four-time Dover winner, said. "You can choose one that has an opening either in front of it or behind it."

The MBNA America 400 will



Gordon

"Every weekend, if I have the opportunity to lead a lap, then I lead a lap," he said. "If I can lead the most laps, I try to lead the most laps. If I can win the race, I try to win the race."

"I don't know how you can approach it any differently."

Kurt Busch, the co-leader of the championship, would like to lead the last lap — something he's never done on The Monster Mile. That's a surprise, because no driver is better at Bristol Motor Speedway, the only other high-banked concrete oval on the NASCAR circuit. Busch has won three victories in his last four starts on the half-mile at Bristol, but is winless in eight races at Dover.

"Our success at Bristol hasn't translated," said Busch, who won a truck race here four years ago. That came two days before his debut in NASCAR's top series at Dover. "We qualified well at 18th place, and went on to finish 18th, so it was a solid way to kick off our Cup series efforts," Busch said.

With five subsequent top-10 fin-

ishes, Busch has been competitive here. But he may not come close to winning.

If he does, Busch will have a second straight victory in just the second race of NASCAR's inaugural top-10 showdown.

Busch won last Sunday in New Hampshire, and came here tied with Dale Earnhardt Jr. for the points lead with nine races remaining.

If Busch wants a lesson on how to win here, Roush Racing teammate Mark Martin provides the best example. No one on the circuit has won more races at Dover. But the teammate concept isn't very strong this fall, because Martin also is part of the top 10. He's seventh in the standings as he continues the quest for his first championship in his 18th season.

Martin won here in June, getting his fourth Dover victory. He also has five second-place finishes on the track.

"Dover is a great race track, and it may even be my favorite," Martin said. "There are six tracks of the nine left that we really feel like we should run strong at and Dover is the first of those."

Gordon is third in the standings, a point in front of reigning series champion Matt Kenseth and nine behind Busch and Earnhardt, who's looking to win for the second time at Dover. Earnhardt knows he was lucky to finish third in June.

"We weren't very good," he said. "But somehow we avoided all the wrecks."

Serena Williams, Sharapova advance in China Open

BEIJING — Top-seeded Serena Williams and Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova reached the China Open semifinals when their opponents had to stop playing because of ankle injuries.

Also advancing Friday was a quarterfinal victory was U.S. Open champion Svetlana Kuznetsov. Vera Zvonareva or Anabel Medina Garrigues will complete the semifinals.

Hopkins-De La Hoya fight draws million buys

NEW YORK — The middleweight title fight between Bernard Hopkins and Oscar De La Hoya was bought by 1 million households, HBO said Thursday. The buys were the second most of any non-heavyweight fight, and income from pay-per-view totaled \$56 million, the cable network said.

The number of buys, however, didn't reach the expectations of promoter Bob Arum, who hoped to break the 1.4 million buys of De La Hoya's 1999 fight against Felix Trinidad.

Hopkins stopped De La Hoya in the fourth round with a body shot to retain his undisputed middleweight titles.

Departures, change leave field wide open

Qualifying tournaments phased out as all schools advance to European tournament

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

This year's high school volleyball race is wide open.

First, the players who dominated in the past — London Central's Nicole Lassetter, Hohenfels' Danielle Green and Bitburg's Nadia Parker — have departed.

"We look on it as an opportunity to have others step up," said

London Central coach Susan Payne, whose team went unbeaten on its way to the European Division III crown last season behind Lassetter. "We're focused on this season."

Perhaps the biggest change this year will be that all schools will advance to the European tournament. Last year, Division III schools held regional qualifying tournaments to determine who got berths to the final tournament.

This year's tournament will be held Nov. 4-5 in Kaiserslautern and Ramstein, Germany. The change might have a big impact on 2003 European Division III runner-up Aviano, which takes a 56-game league winning streak into Saturday's opener, at home against Victoria Arona and Milan. Aviano and Arona Naples will compete in Division II in the Europeans this year.

Coch Pann Hillestad is counting on returning stars Aubrey Maritz, a 2003 All-Europe senior, and second-team 2003 All-Europe outside hitter Ashley Mead, MVP of last year's European Regional tournament, to keep the string going.

The elevation of Aviano and Naples came as something of a relief to at least one rival coach. "This will be the first end-of-season tournament I have participated in that did not include Naples and Aviano," said Signella coach Shaw McCarthy, who in the past has found his road to the Europeans blocked by those two perennial powers.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for Aviano, I will be looking forward to the prospect of meeting a team other than Aviano in the semifinals." If his Jaguars make the small schools semis, McCarthy said, it'll be largely because of setter Whitney Lynch and hitter Liz Ailly, who is a senior transfer from Naples.

Also powerful in Division III will be Alconbury, which returns seven or eight starters from last year. It's North regional runners-up, Hohenfels, led by seniors Tiara Walz and Sommer Crean and junior Vanessa Velez, and senior-led Brussels, which will lean on setter and captain Nicole Herway, Chelsea Blandford, Clarissa Bottesini, Becky Wilson and newcomer Amy Exner, according to coach Monica Blandford.

Among the big schools, Rich Bennett's Division I champion



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Heather Campbell, who played for Division II champion SHAPF last season, has transferred and will play for defending Division I champion Heidelberg in last season's season.

Heidelberg Lady Lions graduated seven players in June, but is regrouping around All-Europe hit No. 10 Antischa Holan, a junior, and senior setter Jessica Palaschak. Also on the squad this year is transfer Heather Campbell, who posted three kills for Division II champion SHAPF in last season's European title game.

Bennett said his team doesn't lack height — Holan is 5 feet 10, and Courtney and newcomer Courtney Barlow are 5-11.

"One thing's for certain," Bennett said. "We'll be spiking all the time."

Ramstein, under the direction of coach David Arthur, will count on Suzanne Hamilton, the last remaining member of the Lady Wolves, to integrate with a transfer from South Korea, Melissa Powell, and another from Texas, Britany Harris.

Among the old Division II schools, Bitburg has 34 players out, including seniors Erica Winters, Michelle Pineda, Rachel Bolduc and Ashley Price, while Hanau's Susan Lloyd says her team gets strong net play from juniors Kyrie Bye-Nagel and Rachel Gordon.

Patch coach Todd Taylor lost six seniors from his Division II third-place team, but returns all conference middle blocker Erin Hopkins, a 5-11 senior.

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Company withholds Armstrong bonus

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The company that owes Lance Armstrong \$5 million for winning a record sixth straight Tour de France is withholding payment of the bonus, citing allegations in a French book that he used performance-enhancing drugs.

SCA Promotions points to doping allegations contained in "L.A. Confidential, the Secrets of Lance Armstrong," published in June by La Martiniere. The book has denounced the book's claims as "absolutely untrue" and launched defamation lawsuits against the publisher and authors.

Chris Compton, a lawyer for SCA, said the company wants to see Armstrong's medical records before releasing the money.

He requested drug test results to disprove the allegations — clean test results that should be easily attainable," Compton said Thursday. "We're not planning on releasing anything to the media or doing anything other than verifying that they exist."

Armstrong's U.S. Postal Cycling team filed suit this month in state court in Dallas, claiming the SCA didn't have the right to question Armstrong's Tour victories, which were upheld by cycling authorities.

The team, jointly owned and managed by Tailwind Sports and

Sports briefs

After Armstrong's third Tour victory in 2001, Tailwind paid SCA a \$420,000 premium to insure the risk for his bonuses in future years would be met by SCA. The SCA paid Armstrong \$2.5 million in 2002 and \$3 million in 2003.

Nuggets give Rodman a look in comeback attempt

DENVER — Dennis Rodman is thinking about a comeback, and the Denver Nuggets are giving him a shot.

The 43-year-old former NBA rebounding champion briefly participated in a pickup game with the Nuggets facility earlier this week but had to cut short the workout because of an ingrown toenail.

General Manager Kiki Vandeweghe told Rodman he was welcome to return on his own terms. Rodman's agent, Darren Prince, told The Denver Post that Rodman hopes to work out again with the Nuggets next week.

Rodman hasn't played in the NBA since the 1999-00 season.

Vandeweghe called Rodman's workout "informal."

Berkman's blast saves Astros and Dodgers

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — With one swing of the bat, Lance Berkman revived the Houston Astros' playoff hopes — and gave the Los Angeles Dodgers a much-needed reprieve.

Berkman hit a three-run homer off Dustin Hermanson, highlighting a five-run ninth inning that sent Houston to a 7-3 victory over San Francisco on Thursday night. A loss would have put the Astros four games behind the Giants in the NL wild-card race. Instead, they remained 2½ games behind the Chicago Cubs, who beat Pittsburgh 6-3 and took a half-game lead over San Francisco.

"This has been crazy," Berkman said. "It seems like every time we're on the brink of destruction or elimination, something crazy happens."

The Giants dropped 1½ games behind the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Los Angeles, which starts a three-game series in San Francisco on Friday night, beat San Diego 9-6.

The Astros trailed 3-2 when Carlos Beltran and Jeff Bagwell

Roundup

opened the ninth with singles. Bagwell's dribbler took an inexplicable 90-degree turn to stay fair down the third-base line. Berkman followed with his 29th homer, which hung high in the air before barely reaching the first row of seats in the elevated arcade on the right-field wall.

The Giants quickly came unglued after that. Hermanson (6-7) and manager Felipe Alou were ejected when the reliever hit Jeff Kent with the next pitch.

"I'm not going to say anything about it," Hermanson said. "I just didn't do my job tonight. I was going for a ground ball with Berkman. The ball was down and in, and he golfed it out."

The Astros added two more in the ninth on Jason Lane's RBI single and Raul Chavez's sacrifice bunt.

Dan Miceli (6-6) got one out in the eighth to help the victory.

Both clubs were warned after benches cleared in the third, when rookie Brandon Backe near-

ly hit Barry Bonds with a low pitch.

"We've got no beef with Barry Bonds," Houston manager Phil Garner said. "We've got absolutely no reason to hit anybody on that ballclub."

Dodgers 9, Padres 6: Cesar Izuris homered and Adrian Beltré had three hits for visiting Los Angeles. The Dodgers knocked out Brian Lawrence (15-13) after four innings and went up 7-0 in the fifth.

Rookie Yhency Brazoban (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings in relief before giving way to Eric Gagne, who pitched a perfect eighth before allowing two runs in the ninth. He held on for his 43rd save in 45 chances.

Cubs 6, Pirates 3: Greg Maddux reached 15 victories for a record 17th consecutive season as Chicago regained the wild-card lead.

Maddux (15-10) also hit a two-run single in a four-run second inning. LaTroy Hawkins pitched a perfect ninth for his 22nd save in 30 chances.

Cardinals 4, Brewers 2: Visiting St. Louis reached 100 victory

for the first time since 1985 and the seventh time in franchise history. Yadier Molina hit his first major league home run in the eighth off Matt Wise (1-2) to break a 2-2 tie. Hector Luna (3-1) followed with his third homer of the season.

Cal Eldred (4-2) won in relief and Jason Irahinghausen pitched the ninth for his league-leading 45th save in 52 chances, completing a four-hitter.

Reds 3, Braves 2: Gabe White earned his first save in over seven years as visiting Cincinnati pitched Atlanta from clinching its 13th consecutive division title. The Braves' magic number in the NL East was reduced to one when Philadelphia beat Florida.

With one out in the ninth and the Reds ahead 3-1, White came on with the bases loaded. Chipper Jones hit a sacrifice fly to make it 3-2 but Johnny Estrada popped to second. It was White's first save since September 1, 2000.

Phillies 9, Marlins 8 (10): Jimmy Rollins homered off Armando Benitez (2-2) in the 10th inning for visiting Philadelphia.

Billy Wagner (4-0), who gave

up the tying run in the ninth, got the win. Todd Jones got three outs for his second save.

Philadelphia's Jim Thome hit a three-run home run in the fifth — his 42nd.

Rockies 7-2, Diamondbacks 1-1: Jeremy Burnitz drove in the winning run with a bloop single in the 10th to complete host Colorado's sweep. Todd Helton doubled to right to start the 10th against Randy Choate (2-4), who then walked Vinny Castilla intentionally. Burnitz followed with a single in front of left fielder Andy Green.

In the opener, Jeff Francis (3-2) gave up one run and seven hits and matched a career high by striking out eight.

Mets 4, Expos 2: Tom Glavine (10-13) won for the third time since mid-June and Gerald Williams and Victor Diaz homered for visiting New York. Braden Loper pitched the ninth for his 27th save in 32 chances.

Brad Wilkerson went 3-for-4 with two homers for Montreal. Tomo Ohka (3-6) made his first start since breaking his forearm June 10. He allowed eight hits and four runs in five innings.

Washington likely pick as new home for Expos

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Major league baseball will try to complete negotiations within a week to move the Montreal Expos to Washington next year.

Baseball's executive council met for three hours Thursday in Milwaukee at the offices of baseball commissioner Bud Selig and heard a presentation from the relocation committee. While no formal recommendation was made, the preference of the committee for the downtown Washington group was evident, a high-ranking baseball official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Selig told the council he would move forward to conclude a deal as quickly as possible, the baseball official said, and left a clear impression with the council members that it would be with the group from the nation's capital, which has been competing with a rival offer from Northern Virginia.

Baltimore Orioles owner Peter Angelos, a member of the eight-owner council, reiterated during the meeting that he opposes having a team relocate to downtown Washington, about 40 miles from Baltimore's Camden Yards ballpark, saying it would take away fans and revenue from his franchise.

Angelos was supported during the meeting by New York Mets owner Fred Wilpon and San Francisco Giants owner Peter Magowan, the official said.

Baseball officials will press ahead with talks with the Washington group and Angelos, the official said. The move would be the first in the major leagues since the expansion Washington Sena-

tors reached the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season.

Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, said the meeting was amicable.

"Peter Angelos has made his views known with regard to the decision that he believes a team in the D.C. area will have on the Baltimore Orioles and he articulated those views," DuPuy said.

"Mr. Angelos' concerns, which are shared by the commissioner and have been all along, have always been a serious issue."

Angelos was not available for comment. DuPuy hopes to have a decision by the end of the regular season on Oct. 3.

"I think we're all running out of time," he said.

The Expos were bought by the other 29 teams in the 2002 season. After the relocation decision, baseball plans to start the talks to sell the club, which started play in 1969.

Northern Virginia proposed building a stadium in Loudoun County near Dulles International Airport, about 60 miles from Camden Yards.

Mark Tuohy, chairman of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission, said legislation must be introduced by Oct. 1 for the proposed \$1.3 billion renovation of RFK Stadium in order for funding to become law by Dec. 31, when the terms expire for several City Council members who support a Washington Nationals team. The legislation would include financing for a ballpark costing slightly more than \$400 million, he said.

Under Washington's plan, the Expos would play in RFK Stadium for three seasons before moving to a new ballpark.



MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD!

Most people agree that we each have the right to full access to the information and services we need to make the most of our time overseas. Stars and Stripes wants to listen to our readers, and is asking for volunteers to join us for a series of 90-minute Focus Groups to be held October 2004 at Wiesbaden, Kaiserslautern and Heidelberg. Eligible participants include Active-Duty, DoD Civilians and Family Members.

Below are two things you can start doing today to be heard.



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Take the first step and sign up by sending us your name, base, rank, and day/evening telephone numbers to marketing@starsandstripes.com.



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Join us for 90 minutes in October and make your voice heard.

Selected participants will be notified of times, dates, and locations. Lunch will be provided.

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Note: One member of each group will win a 3 Mega Pixel Digital Camera!

SPORTS



Baseball hopes to conclude negotiations next week to bring Expos to Washington D.C., Page 33

Will Hall voters go to bat for Martinez?

Seattle Mariners designated hitter Edgar Martinez will retire at the end of this season, and his retirement is sure to re-ignite the debate as to whether a career DH belongs in Cooperstown. He has a better average (.315), more home runs (242) and more RBIs (1,258) than anybody to play at least 1,000 games as a DH. On the other hand, he's short of two milestones that usually guarantee a spot in Cooperstown: 3,000 hits and 500 home runs.

AP

Beloved Mariners DH will put criteria to test

BY TIM KORTE
The Associated Press

SEATTLE
Edgar Martinez has been swinging his bat in Seattle so long, he seems as much a city fixture as the Space Needle and Pioneer Square.

Unlike the landmarks, Martinez won't be on display much longer.

Retirement is looming for the 41-year-old Mariners star, regarded as one of the best right-handed hitters of his generation.

"I know when I get to that final homestand, I'm going to feel very emotional about it," Martinez said. "I know I'm going to miss the competition and everything that goes with baseball."

Martinez will retire as a seven-time All-Star and two-time American League batting champion. He'll be remembered as one of the nicest guys in baseball, beloved by Seattle fans and an exceptional clubhouse presence.

"Edgar is very special person," Mariners President Chuck Armstrong said. "He's a very loyal per-

son, a great teammate."

His retirement also is likely to test the limits on one of baseball's most fiery debates. Martinez will be the most accomplished career designated hitter to contend for a plaque at Cooperstown.

"I think the writers have spoken in my case and they will again in the future," said Seattle hitting coach Paul Molitor, inducted into the Hall of Fame this summer after playing the final eight seasons of his career as a DH.

"The DH makes a daily contribution to the team, just like any position player who plays every day."

Edgar Martinez
Mariners designated hitter



SEE BAT ON PAGE 35

Rangers rally in ninth inning to complete sweep of Athletics, pull to within two games in AL West

Page 35



College football: Coming off losses, Clemson, Iowa enter pivotal matchups as underdogs

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No. 4 Hurricanes listless on offense but remain unbeaten with 38-13 victory over Cougars

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DODDS volleyball more inclusive this season Page 30

